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REGIMENTAL RECORDS
OF THE
BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA
1759 TO 1884

SIR JOHN M. BURGOYNE

P 37351

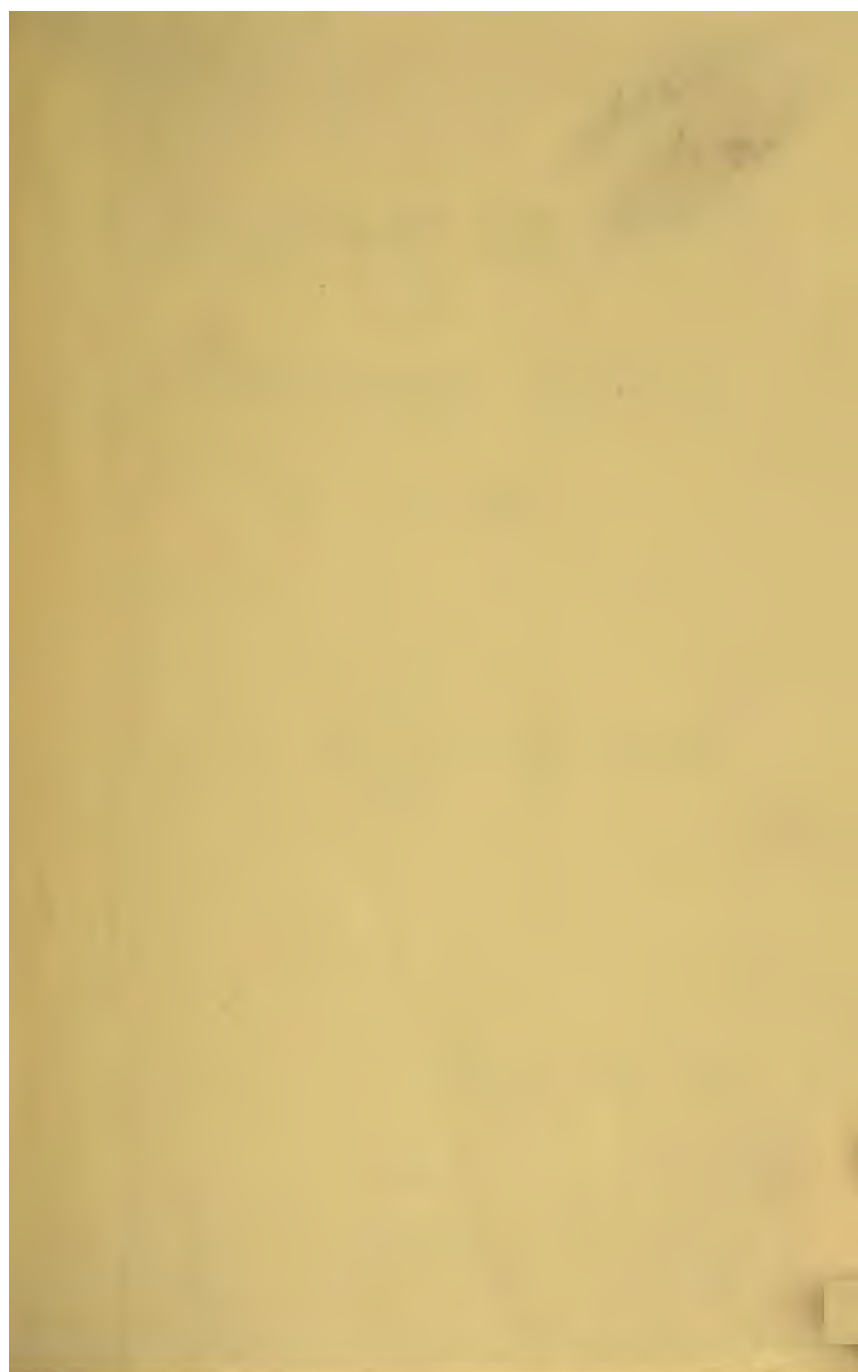


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REGIMENTAL RECORDS
OF THE
BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA

From 1759 to 1884.

BY
LIEUT.-COL. SIR JOHN M. BURGoyNE,
BART. //

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RECORDS OF SERVICE
OF THE
BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA.

1759.

ALTHOUGH armed men of various designations had been formed in England from a remote period, it was not until 1759 that the Militia was raised.

It is very difficult to trace the early history of Militia regiments, as during the last century, and early part of the present, they were entirely under the Home Department, and the lists of their Officers were kept distinct, and were not published in the Army List.

Early in 1759, a Militia Act was passed by Parliament, to raise regiments of Militia in England and Wales, and on the 5th June a Circular was sent round to the Lords-

Lieutenant of Counties, ordering all Militia regiments to be immediately recruited and prepared for service.

Seven regiments of these only appear to have complied with this order, viz. the Devon, Dorset, Norfolk, Somerset, Surrey, and Wiltshire, which regiments, by a return called for on the 28th July, were reported to be "on duty," while twenty-four others were returned as "officered and near completion."

At this time the Duke of Bedford appears to have been Lord-Lieutenant both of Bedfordshire and Devonshire, as I found several official letters written by him respecting appointing officers to the Devonshire Militia. I, however, found the original letter from the Duke of Bedford to the Secretary of State, which was probably the first official letter ever written respecting the Bedfordshire Militia.

"Woburn Abbey,

"September 8th, 1759.

"SIR,

"In obedience to His Majesty's commands, signified to me in your letter of the 5th June last, to use my utmost diligence and attention, to carry into execution the several Acts of Parliament made for the better ordering the Militia Force in that part of Great Britain called England, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that I have succeeded so far in this county, as to be able to send you the enclosed list of noblemen and gentlemen who are willing to accept the commissions set against their name, in the list I have the

honor to enclose you, and I desire the favor of you to lay it before His Majesty, for his royal approbation.

“ I am, with great respect,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient humble servant,

“ BEDFORD.

“ P.S.—I think it necessary to inform you that Lord Viscount Torrington is by his own particular desire placed as ensign ; and as the Battalion is 400 strong, I think two Field Officers will be sufficient.

“ To the Right Hon. Mr. Secretary Pitt.”

A List of Noblemen and Gentlemen who offered themselves as Officers in the Militia of the County of Bedford.

The Marquis of Tavistock—*Colonel*.

Sir George Osborn, Bart.—*Major*.

As Captains.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Upper Ossory.

Sir Philip Monoux, Bart.

John Marshe Dickinson, Esq.

Thomas Potter, Esq.

Richard Orlebar, Esq.

George Edwards, Esq.

Ambrose Reddall, Esq.

As Lieutenants.

John Franklin, Esq.
Thomas Vaux, Esq.
John Salusbury, Esq.
Thomas Lee, Esq.
Charles Field, Esq.

As Ensigns.

The Right Hon. George Viscount Torrington.
George Boheme, Esq.
Joseph Franklin, Esq.
John Hervey, Esq.
Freeman, Gentleman—*Adjutant.*

(Signed) BEDFORD.

Commissions were issued to these noblemen and gentlemen, and they were the first officers of the Bedfordshire Militia. At the same time several County gentlemen were appointed Deputy Lieutenants, to arrange and carry out the balloting of men to serve in the Militia.

I found a curious old copy of a notice to the Dorset Militia, issued by their Colonel, June 23rd, 1759 :—

“ To the Militiamen of the County of Dorset.

“ The law enacts that in case of actual invasion, of imminent national danger, or in case of rebellion, the Militia, or any part of it, may be drawn out as His Majesty shall judge necessary, and marched to any parts

of this kingdom. But none of the Militia are ever to be sent out of it, nor are they to be commanded by any other regimental officers than their own, qualified as the law directs; and if any man ordered out leave families not of abilities to support themselves during their absence, such families are to be maintained, by order of any Justice of the Peace, at the expense of the county."

The following letter of an officer of Militia would show that the Militiamen of 1759 commenced with the same spirit and good conduct which has been handed down to those now serving in the force.

"July 8th, 1759.

"The business I am engaged in employs me continually. But the great spirit seen in every part of our Corps, and the cheerfulness of our private men, who observe the strictest discipline, make fatigue agreeable."

In July of this year, for the first time, mention is made of Militia regiments marching through various towns. The *London Chronicle* of July 21st, 1759, says:—

"Yesterday morning, six companies of the Norfolk Militia marched from Kingston in Surry to Cobham and Ripley, on their way to Portsmouth. They came into Kingston on Tuesday evening, and made a very good appearance; they were commanded by Major Wilton. Their drummers and fifers were all little boys with fur caps, and looked very pretty. Their uniform is red, faced with black.

"When they were drawn up on Tuesday evening, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales passed through Kingston, and rode through the front of them with his hat in his hand in the politest manner. After he had passed by the whole, he sent the Marquis of Bute to Major Wilton with a bank-note for £50 to distribute among them to drink the King's health. Never were men in higher spirits."

The Middlesex Militia were one of the regiments ordered to be raised at the same time as the Bedfordshire, and they appear to have had some difficulty in getting gentlemen to come forward as officers, and the following lines appeared in the newspapers of the day :—

"AN EPIGRAM,

"Addressed to the Gentlemen of Middlesex.

"O shame to the land!

Like cowards to stand

When France threatens to tread on our heels.

Though the male is your dress,

Female hearts you possess—

And may well be call'd The Middle-sex."

1760.

The Bedfordshire Militia was embodied for service on the 4th March 1760.

The early Army Lists do not give the dates of officers' commissions, nor at this time had Militia regiments

numbers; but they appear to have taken precedence according to the dates of the warrants under which they were formed.

The *Daily Register* of the 25th June 1760 states: "A large camp is to be formed at Winchester, consisting of the 34th Regiment, with the Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, and Bedfordshire regiments of Militia. The Earl of Effingham is to have the command of the camp; the Earl of Shaftesbury Brigadier-General; and Edward Montagu, Esq., of the Wiltshire Regiment, Major of Brigade. The Warwick and Hertfordshire are to be in the city, and are to do duty at the French prison, under the command of Lord Denbigh."

The Bedfordshire Militia has kept a record of nearly every detail connected with it, and by it the regiment marched from Bedford on the 2nd June 1760 for the camp at Winchester, halting on the march at Newport Pagnell, Buckingham, Thame, Wallingford, Reading, Basingstoke, Alton, and Alresford, arriving at Winchester Camp on the 13th June. The Regimental Record, which is more likely to be correct than the newspaper, states that the regiments at the Camp were the 34th Foot, Dorset, Bedford, Berkshire, Wiltshire and Buckingham Militias; Col. Howard, 34th Foot, commanding.

1761.

At the time of the accession of George III. (1760), the Militia of England and Wales were raised by lot or

ballot of persons eligible, and whoever was drawn was compelled to serve in person or substitute for a given term.

The commanding officers were selected by the Lord Lieutenants of each county, and property qualifications were required: captains, £200 a year in land; and in all regiments there was a large mutual county feeling and attachment.

The period of service was for three years. It may here be remarked that the same old law regarding the ballotting for the Militia is still retained to this day in the Statutes, but that it was suspended in 1854 by Lord John, afterwards Earl, Russell, when the Militia were embodied during the Crimean war.

The old county feeling and attachment was broken up on the 1st July 1881. It may be interesting, at all events, to those now serving, who know the good feeling and attachment of the men to their officers, to read a letter I by accident came across in an old newspaper dated 21st October 1760. I do not state it is the letter of a Bedfordshire militiaman, and I insert it to show that the same feeling that exists now existed 120 years ago.

Letter of a Militiaman to his Father.

“HONORED FATHER,

“I AM sorry to hear by my cousin John, that you and Mother take it so much to heart, and are so angry at my having engaged as a volunteer with Captain

—, in his company of Militia. I do not know, but I think I have done very well; and I dare say you will say so too when you come to consider better of it. I am young, and have, praised be God, good health and the use of my limbs; and now is the time, or never, to serve our country, which is the duty of every Englishman to do, and endeavour to keep out the French with Popery and slavery at their heels. I should not have disliked going among the regulars and fighting for my country in Germany and America, but I know my poor mother would have broke her heart if I had been sent there, so I refused noble offers from a captain that was our way lately.

“But this Militia is quite a different sort of a story, for I dare say you are quite by this time convinced that all the silly stories that were told us at the Militia’s first marching out were all nonsense, and the lies of the Jacobites,—that we should be draughted into the Regulars and sent abroad. You see, no such thing has been thought of, or can be done; but we shall all remain in the kingdom and under the command of our own officers, good gentlemen that we know and love. For my part, I go with Captain —, as honest and worthy gentleman as lives—I have worked along with him—and who leaves a noble seat with all his fine gardens and estates to go, and why should not I? If peace is made, we shall soon come back again; if not, I shall have a three years’ frolick at the King’s expense, and see a little how the world goes on a little beyond the smoke of our own oven, and by

that time I shall be glad to settle; and if I get the goodwill of my officers, as I hope I shall, they will be friends to me ever after; and then, again, I shall not be liable to be balloted, nor be obliged to leave my wife and family when I am older and not fit to serve, or pay devilish dear for a substitute, and can settle anywhere, where I will. I can live very well with my pay, and as for matter of danger there is little or none, unless the French should come hither, and then we should all be glad to fight and trim Monsieurs, as we should no doubt do, to their hearts' content. My captain has told me that he would give me a furlough as soon as I have learned the exercises, and when I will come and see you and mother. My duty to her, and tell her I cut a good figure in my red coat, so that she will scarce know me.

“ So no more at present from

“ Your loving Son till death.

“ P.S.—I am bound to thank you and my good mother for the care you have taken to give me schooling, for my captain says if I behave well, as I can write a good hand and cast accounts, he will make me a corporal, and then a sergeant, when our old one goes off, and he cannot hold long, as he is quite an invalid from Chelsea.”

In November 1760, the regiment marched from Winchester to Bedford, halting on the march at Alresford, Basingstoke, Reading, Maidenhead, Beaconsfield, Tring, Dunstable, and Ampthill, arriving at the end of the

month at Bedford, where it remained until July 1761; when it marched to Sandy Heath Camp (near Guildford), halting at Luton, St. Alban's, Hampstead, Kingston-on-Thames, Guildford, arriving at Sandy Heath Camp at the end of July; the regiments at the camp being the 34th and 72nd Foot, and the Bedford Militia. Colonel Cavendish, 34th Foot, commanding.

In the end of November 1761 the regiment broke up its camp, sent its camp equipage into store, and marched from Sandy Heath, by Windsor, Beaconsfield, Tring, Dunstable, Bedford, Wellingborough, to Northampton, where it remained a few weeks; then marching by Newport Pagnell to Bedford, where it was disembodied at the close of the year 1761, having been on actual service one year and seven months.

From 1761 to May 1768 the regiment was disembodied.

1762.

A Militia Bill received the Royal Assent on the 24th March 1764, for the payment of the disembodied Militia from the 25th March 1762. The pay to be issued four months in advance.

Adjutant—Six shillings a day.

Each Sergeant—One shilling, with an addition of two shillings and sixpence per week to the Sergeant-Major.

Drummer—Sixpence a day, with the addition of sixpence a day to the drum-major.

Privates—Fivepence a day.

For clothing (in the Act spelt cloathing) for each three years : sergeants, three pounds ten shillings ; drummers, two pounds ; and privates, one pound ten shillings.

1771.

From 1762 to 1771 I can discover no papers relating to the Militia. The *Gazette* of the 20th January 1771 appoints the Earl of Upper Ossory to be Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, and at the same date he was appointed Colonel of the Bedfordshire Militia. Lord Ossory had previously served in the regiment, having been appointed a captain at the first raising of the regiment, and served for several years.

On the 24th October 1771 general orders were issued:—

“The following regulations are to take place in the Militia the same as in the Regulars. Every battalion is to have a light company, with music, and an addition of a sergeant and two corporals to each.”

1772.

It would appear that there was some difficulty in getting officers for the Militia at this time, by the following:—

Lord Thomond to Lords of the Treasury.

27th September 1772. (State Papers.)

“Laying before His Majesty the request of two lieutenants in the Somersetshire Militia to be allowed to resign, is sorry he has no others to recommend to succeed

at present, as the spirit of entering the Militia Service abates in these parts."

1772 to 1777.

The regiment was disembodied, and I can find no papers or records referring to the Militia during this period.

1778.

In the spring of this year, owing to the American War, the regiment was again embodied, for the second time, and on the 5th May marched for Southampton *via* Woburn, Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Reading, Basingstoke, and Winchester, arriving at Southampton on the 17th June, where it was quartered till July 1779.

A very curious old letter, no doubt in the handwriting of one of the Officers of that time, is still in existence in the orderly-room of the battalion at Bedford, as follows:—

"Southampton, July 27th, 1778.

"Wednesday last a man of the Bedfordshire Militia, which are quartered in this town, appeared on parade in a dirty manner, and his hair undrest.

"Colonel Stuart ordered him to the guard-house, and next day a yellow jacket and cap were put on him, with the word "dirty" before and behind; and a great clog was also put on his leg, and he was made to stand in the public street till noon, when, the regiment being drawn out, it was reported he was to march through the town in that dress."

This kind of discipline, being quite new, greatly exasperated the mob, who could not be restrained from abusing the colonel and other officers in very unbecoming language. The fellow was then ordered away, and at the roll-call in the evening a vast mob was collected, and began their abuse with greater violence, so that the peace officers were obliged to be called, and some of the ringleaders were taken into custody, one of whom was committed to Bridewell.

It was observed that the women took a very active part in this mob.

1779.

At the end of July 1779, the regiment marched from Southampton to Winchester, where it was quartered until the following November.

The old record states that "at Winchester were upwards of 7,000 prisoners of war, French, Spanish, and Dutch. While doing duty at this place, Robert Fleming, a private of the Bedford Militia, shot a French prisoner dead for attempting to go beyond his limited bounds."

In November the regiment marched from Winchester to Taunton, by Stockbridge, Salisbury, Hendon, Bruton, and Somerton, arriving in December, where they remained until May 1780.

The number borne by the regiment at this time was 21.

1780.

At this time the strength of infantry regiments was :—

For foreign service . . .	804	rank and file.
In Great Britain . . .	670	„
On the Irish Establishment .	474	„

In May (the date is missing) 1780 the Bedfordshire Militia marched out of their quarters at Taunton, by Wellington, Collumpton, Exeter, and Moreton Hampstead, to Tavistock, where they remained until the 15th June, when they went into camp at Buckland Down, and remained there until the 31st October 1780 ; the regiments stationed in this encampment being the Somerset, Bedford, Cornwall, and Devon regiments of Militia ; Major-Gen. Grey commanding.

About the 20th October (the record says), at 9 o'clock at night, a strong hurricane blew from the west, attended with thunder, lightning, and heavy rain, which continued with great violence for several hours, and did much damage in the above-mentioned camp by rending in pieces the officers' marquees, and tearing great numbers of the men's tents.

The officers went to lodgings, and many men to stables, huts, &c. ; and a great number slept in Lord Ossory's marquee, being the only one left standing in the regiment.

On the 31st October the camp at Buckland Down was broken up, and the regiments composing it went into

winter quarters, the Bedfordshire being ordered to return to their native county. They appear to have left the camp on the 31st October, and to have marched by Tavistock, Oakhampton, Crediton, Exeter, Honiton, Crewkerne, Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Luggershall, Hungerford, Wantage, Oxford, Bicester, Buckingham, and Newport Pagnell to Bedford, where they were stationed until June 1781.

1781.

In June of this year the regiment was again upon the move, and proceeded by Hitchin, Hatfield, Barnet, Greenwich, &c, Chatham, &c., to Cox Heath Camp, where it was stationed until the beginning of November. The regiments at this camp being the Park of Royal Artillery, Rutland Militia, 59th Foot, Brecknock, Bedford, Cheshire, Royal Anglesea, South Hants, and Monmouth Militias; Lieutenant-General Gage and Major-General Morris commanding. On the breaking up of this camp in November the regiment moved to Northampton, marching by Chatham, Greenwich, Barnet, St. Alban's, Dunstable, Newport Pagnell, to Northampton, with detachments at Wellingborough and Kettering, where it remained until the month of April following.

1782.

In April 1782 it returned to Bedford, marching by Woburn, remaining in its county town until June, when it marched by Hitchin, Stevenage, Waltham Cross, Epping,

and Chelmsford, to a camp at Danbury in Essex, the regiments stationed there being the East Kent, Bedford, and West Suffolk Militia, under the command of Major-General St. John.

1782, 1783.

It remained at this camp until the 4th November, when it returned to Bedford by the same route, and was quartered there until the 14th March of the following year, when it was disembodied, having been on actual service for nearly five years.

1783 to 1793.

From 1783 to 1793 the Militia regiments throughout the kingdom appear to have been disembodied, and I can find no Militia records during that period.

1793.

On the 4th February 1793 the Bedfordshire Militia was again embodied for the third time for service, under the command of Colonel The Earl of Upper Ossory, and early in March received orders to proceed to a large camp that was about to be formed at Harwich. The regiment marched by Hitchin, Hertford, Waltham Cross, to Brentwood, where it was halted and stationed, with companies detached at Epping, Ongar, and Ingatestone, &c., remaining in these quarters until June, when it marched to Sudbury, by Chelmsford and Kelvedon, where it was again halted. At the end of July it left Sudbury and marched, by Manningtree, to the camp at Harwich, where it remained until the

middle of October. The regiments in this camp were the West Kent, Bedford, and West Suffolk Militia, under the command of Major-General Torryen.

1793, 1794.

At the latter end of October 1793 the Bedfordshire moved into barracks in the town of Harwich, leaving detachments at Languard Fort, Mistley, and Manningtree, and remained in these quarters until June 1794, when they marched again to a camp at Harwich. The regiments composing this second camp were the North Lincoln and Bedford Militias, the senior field-officer commanding the camp.

1794-1795.

This camp was broken up on the 6th November, and the Bedfordshire marched *viâ* Manningtree, Ipswich, Wickham Market, and Saxmundham to Beccles, where it remained in winter quarters until the following April, when it moved, marching by Bungay, Holsworth, Framlingham, and Saxmundham to Yarmouth and Aldborough, where it was stationed until June.

In 1795, there appears to have been some little friction between the Home Office authorities and those of the War Office with regard to the Militia, and a strong expression of feeling against too great an amalgamation of the Militia with the Regular forces taking place. On the 6th March 1795 in moving a new Bill with reference to the Militia in the House of Commons, Mr. Wyndham stated: "The

original establishment of the Militia had been long considered as a counterpoise to the power vested in the Crown, through the command and management of the army. Those who ventured to give vent to their thoughts upon this subject explicitly, boldly termed the Regular forces the army of the Crown, and the Militia the army of the people. They were at the same time of opinion that this latter body of men should remain perpetually distinct from the former, and that all the regulations respecting them should be so framed as to allow no ministerial influence to alter them ; and, above all, that the officers belonging to this body should be placed on a different footing, essentially different from that of the officers of the army in point of subordination, advancement, and pay. Little alteration had taken place in the arrangements relating to the Militia from the date of its primitive institution, till the dangers resulting from the present war induced men in power to prepare for those emergencies they might occasion. Among the means of resistance to a foreign enemy none appeared more eligible than to augment the Militia, improve its discipline, and assimilate it as much as possible to the army."

With this view Mr. Wyndham moved for a Committee to prepare an estimate to increase the allowances of Militia subalterns, in order to retain the services of expert subalterns, an object not to be attained without adequate encouragement.

Although this speech in the House of Commons may be considered foreign to the records of the Bedfordshire

Militia, I have inserted it to show that in days past those who appreciated the value of the Militia understood its position as the constitutional force of the country.

The Regimental Order Book contains the following letter with reference to the canteen, during the time the regiment was stationed at Yarmouth :—

“ Barrack Office,

“ SIR,

“ 15th November 1797.

“ I am directed by the Barrackmaster-General to send you a statement of the quantity of beer furnished to the Bedfordshire Militia at Yarmouth, under your command, during the period therein stated, which does not correspond with the General Return of the regiment, and also an account of money received by persons in the regiment as a perquisite ; which practice, being highly injurious to the service, requires an effective check. The Barrackmaster-General, therefore, trusts you will take such steps as will effectually put a stop thereto in future.

“ The Barrackmaster, who was guilty of misconduct on this occasion, has been dismissed the service.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Your most obedient Servant,

“ O. BARBENI,

“ Assistant Barrackmaster-General

“ The Officer Commanding

“ Bedfordshire Militia.”

“Bedfordshire Regiment of Militia.

“Short issue of beer as stated by Mr. Patterson, brewer, at Yarmouth, between 23rd April 1795 and 13th May following:—

	Barrels.	Gallons.
“Amount of General Returns certified by Commanding Officer .	61	24
“Beer delivered	59	—
“Difference	2	24

“For which Sergeant Freeman received of Mr. Patterson £1 1s.”

On the 25th June of this year Lieut.-Colonel Moore was promoted to the Colonelcy of the regiment, *vice* the Earl of Ossory, and Major Payne to be Lieut.-Colonel.

In the early days of the Militia they do not appear to have had any regimental numbers, but to have taken precedence amongst themselves according to the date of the warrant under which they were raised; but in 1793 the system was adopted of numbers being drawn by the Lords-Lieutenant for the Militia of their respective counties, and the Militia List of 1794 gives, for the first time, the Bedfordshire Militia, No. 42.

In June of this year the Bedfordshire was again on the march, being ordered to a camp at Warley in Essex, and marched *viâ* Beccles, Holsworth, Woodbridge, Ipswich, Colchester, Kelvedon, Chelmsford, and Brentwood.

The regiments composing this camp were, a Park of Royal Artillery, the 14th and 33rd Foot, the Nottingham, Bedford, West Kent, Hertford, Norfolk, and West Suffolk Militia, under the command of Lieut.-General Cornwallis.

The regiment, however, remained at this camp for only one month, as it moved to the camp at Danbury in July, composed of the East Kent, Bedford, and Wiltshire Militia regiments, under the command of Major-General Morshead. Lieutenant-General Meadows commanded the whole of the troops in the district.

The regiment remained at this camp until November, when it was ordered to march *viâ* Ingatestone, Gravesend, and Chatham, to Maidstone, crossing the Thames in boats near Tilbury Fort; and it remained in that town, in winter quarters, until the month of February following.

1796.

At the commencement of this year England was in a most disturbed state, and was threatened with a French invasion, as well as having a serious rebellion in Ireland.

Most of the regular troops were abroad, and the home garrisons were almost entirely composed of Fencibles, Yeomanry, and Militia regiments, which latter were still further reinforced by what was termed "Supplementary Militiamen." However, to return to our own regiment, which left Maidstone on the 13th February 1796 by march *viâ* Ashford and Hythe to Folkestone and the forts at Dungeness, arriving in their new quarters on the 15th

February. In July of the same year they moved to a camp at Brighton, *viâ* Rye and Battle, marching into camp on the 18th July. The regiments composing the camp were the West Kent, East York, Bedford, and West Essex Militia; Major-General Jones, commanding.

In November the regiment went into winter quarters, moving to Shoreham, with detachments at Southwich, Worthing, Cuckfield, and Littlehampton. It, however, did not remain long in these quarters, for it moved into the new barracks that had been built at Horsham on the 24th December 1796. The first regiments ever occupying these barracks were the Derby, Bedford, and West Essex Militia.

1797.

During the years 1797-98 we are enabled to look back to the most minute details connected with the regiment, as an old Order Book of those years has been preserved, and will no doubt be long cherished by the officers, in addition to the records which have been kept in such a marvellous manner during the long history of the old regiment. This old book belonged to Lieut.-Colonel Gilpin, father of Colonel Sir Richard Gilpin, Bart.; and shortly before the death of the latter he gave it to me, with some other old papers, &c., more or less connected with the regiment, with a request that I would put them into order and add them to our records.

It is in consequence of this request that I have under-

taken this record of the services of the regiment; and I hope, in complying with the wishes of our old Colonel, whom everyone of us loved and respected so much, that I shall contribute to keep up the interest of the County towards the "Third Bedfordshire," and that those who succeed us in the Battalion may maintain the good name we have always borne, and hand down our records in the same careful manner as we have received them.

On the 21st May 1797 we find the Bedfordshire Militia marched from Horsham, arriving at Eastbourne on the 1st June, where they were stationed until November.

The regiment at this time was composed of eight companies, viz. :—

- The Colonel's company.
- „ Lieut.-Colonel's company.
- „ Major's (Grenadiers) company.
- Capt. Monoux's (Light Infantry).
- „ Moore's „
- „ Garstin's „
- „ Docwra's „
- „ Orlebar's „

The troops at Eastbourne were under the command of Major-General Forbes, and General Sir Charles Grey commanded the Southern District.

The changes of uniform of officers appear to have been as frequent in old days as in our own time, as in September 1797, a general order was issued by Field Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of York, "that the following description of

Feathers are to be worn in the Hats of the Infantry Corps in his Service, (viz.,) that of the Battalion Officers and Men is to be Red and White (Red at the bottom) like that of the Cavalry; that to be worn by the Grenadier Officers and Men is to be plain White, and that of the Light Infantry is to be Green. When Officers wear their Regimental Uniforms looped close or buttoned all the way down to the Waist, their sashes are to be worn over their Coats."

On September 28th, 1797, the Lieutenant-Colonel requests the officers to provide themselves with sashes and feathers to wear, agreeable to general orders of the 16th inst.

The regiment seems to have had a few rather insubordinate men, and regimental courts-martial were frequent; Private Peter Whittamore, of Captain Moore's company, having been tried for abusive language to Sergeant Collier on the 13th September, and again on the 12th October.

Each battalion of infantry in these days had two field-guns (6-pounders) attached, and they were worked by the men without any horses, as will be seen by this order (September 25th, 1787):—

"The troop to beat to-morrow morning at a quarter past 8 o'clock when the parade will be immediately formed. The two companies from the forts to be at the Links at half past 8 o'clock. The grenadiers and battalion companies to be furnished with ten rounds of practising cartridges, the light infantry and artillery with fifteen each."

On the 13th October general orders were issued to the

whole army announcing the victory of Admiral Duncan's fleet over the Dutch (at Camperdown), and at all garrisons salutes and feux de joie were ordered to be fired.

On the 24th October the regiment marched from Eastbourne to Lewes, as is before stated, two companies which were stationed in the forts under Lieutenant Chandless marching as soon as relieved on the 26th October.

At Lewes Colonel Brady of the Royal Artillery was in command of the Brigade, composed of a detachment of Royal Artillery, Bedford Militia, South Hants Militia.

Regimental orders of November 4th, 1797, show a general good-feeling which deserves to be recorded:—

“The Commanding Officer and Officers of the Bedford regiment, highly pleased at the conduct of the non-commissioned officers and privates, who have voluntarily offered a day's pay towards the relief of the widows and orphans of the brave men who so nobly fell in the defence of the country, under the command of Admiral Duncan, desire to join them in their benevolent intentions. Should the restless and sanguinary disposition of our enemies induce them to put in practice their long-meditated plan of invasion—the contest, being for everything dear to us, must be bloody—the magnitude of the subscription to which they have so handsomely contributed, and which is become so general throughout the kingdom, must afford them great satisfaction, as it proves the gratitude of their country towards the widows and children of those who so nobly fell in its defence.”

On the 16th December a general order was issued ordering the immediate practising of a new system of light infantry drill.

1798.

On the 22nd January a general order was issued for camp equipment to be issued to every regiment in the Southern District, and for all regiments to be prepared to march at the shortest notice.

In the early part of this year occurred perhaps the only instance of circumstances detrimental to the good order and credit of the regiment during its long history.

The old orders reveal that on the part of some of the officers repeated acts of disobedience of orders occurred, with reference to an order more than once issued by Colonel Moore, "that officers were invariably to march with their companies to and from their quarters to the parade ground," which orders some of the officers deliberately disobeyed, and which conduct called from Colonel Moore a very strongly-worded order. This mistaken and improper conduct of the officers quickly communicated itself to the men; and an order issued by Colonel Moore that the men were not to wear their best coats without orders, was disobeyed by nearly the whole of the men, on the ground that their old clothing was worn out and cold.

On the 25th of January 1798 the following regimental after-order appears:—

"Colonel Moore cannot find words to express his anger

at many of the men appearing in their best jackets this morning, in direct disobedience of orders. It induces him to repeat again what he has so frequently done, that he will never forgive any man who is daring enough to wilfully disobey orders, whatever soldier may suffer by it. If a soldier thinks himself aggrieved in any particular, he is to state it in the most respectful manner to the officer of his company. Should he not get that redress that he conceives is right, then he is to mention his complaints to the Commanding Officer of the regiment, when he will most certainly receive every right and have justice done him; but disobedience of orders is a crime in a soldier that not only disgraces him, but will most certainly be a means of preventing him from receiving any indulgence whatever, and lead him to a state of misery and punishment. As the Colonel is, and ever was, more anxious to prevent than inflict punishment, he again thinks it necessary to caution the men from behaving improperly, as he is determined to make an example of any man who may offend him by any improper behaviour by disgracing the regiment he has the honour to command."

Other regiments at this period appear to have had the same difficulty with their subaltern officers, and the general orders of the 27th January 1798 notify that Lieutenants Colley and Carter, of the West Middlesex Militia, have been dismissed the service for disrespectful behaviour to their commanding officer. The regimental orders of this

day, issued by Colonel Moore, point to the officers whose conduct and bad example caused the men of the Bedfordshire to forget the traditions of the regiment.

“Regimental Orders.—The general order of this day is a pretty strong proof that the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Charles Grey, is determined that every manner of subordination shall be kept up in the Southern District, and the Colonel is equally determined to execute his trust and power by making an example of the first person that may disgrace his regiment.

“He cannot avoid adding that he has reason to caution every good man in the regiment from being led astray by the persuasion or example of bad men; and as they love their own reputation, honour, and happiness, they will avoid associating with every man of this description; but to avoid him as they would a pestilence, for otherwise it will be sure to bring down upon them the most sure and exemplary punishment.

“The Colonel cannot avoid expressing in public orders this day his perfect satisfaction at the appearance and behaviour of the men at divine service to-day. At the same time he cannot help animadverting the very shameful and irreligious conduct of two of his officers: their conduct was marked with united disrespect and contempt of everything, either sacred or good, in every respect unbecoming a man, much less a gentleman and an officer, who ought to be an example to their men for a diametrically opposite conduct.

The Colonel has, in consequence, ordered them under arrest. He hopes and trusts that, exerting this his authority, the whole of the regiment will be convinced that, let them be ever so high in rank in the Regiment he has the honour to command, they shall not escape punishment, who, in defiance of all order and discipline, are hardy enough to trespass against them."

General orders issued by General Sir Charles Grey, on the 9th February 1798, ordered a general court-martial to assemble at Lewes on the 15th, for the trial of Lieutenants Stevenson and Carpenter, of the Bedfordshire Militia.

Colonel Sir Narborough Daith, of the East Kent Militia, to be President.

The South Hants Militia to furnish one captain and one subaltern.

The Denbigh Militia to furnish one captain.

The Derbyshire Militia to furnish one captain.

The West York Militia to furnish one field officer and one captain.

The West Essex Militia to furnish one field officer.

The proceedings of this court-martial were promulgated in general orders of the 10th March 1798, as follows:—

"The Judge Advocate-General, having transmitted to General Sir Charles Grey, His Majesty's pleasure respecting a general court-martial held at Lewes on Thursday the 15th of last month, and on several subsequent days, for the trial of Lieutenant William Stevenson, of the

Bedfordshire Militia, upon several articles of charges preferred against him, viz. :—

“*1st Charge.*

“Scandalous, infamous, and irreligious behaviour, such as is unbecoming the character of a Christian, an officer, and a gentleman, at St. Michael’s Church, Lewes, on Sunday the 28th day of January last, and a violation of his Colonel’s orders, delivered to him on the general parade of the garrison or troops near Lewes, on the morning of that day, by the Adjutant.

“The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Stevenson is *Not Guilty* of scandalous, infamous, and irreligious behaviour, such as is unbecoming the character of a Christian, an officer, and a gentleman, as expressed in this charge, but that he is *Guilty* of having behaved indecently and irreverently at St. Michael’s Church, on Sunday, January 28th, last, in breach of the 5th Section of the 1st Article of War; and the Court doth acquit Lieutenant Stevenson of the latter part of the said charge, viz. a violation of the Colonel’s orders, delivered to him on the general parade of the garrison or troops near Lewes, on the morning of that day, by the Adjutant.

“*2nd Charge.*

“Disrespectful and contemptuous behaviour at Eastbourne in or about the month of August last, by using very improper and unsoldier-like language on being refused leave to go to Brighthelmstone.

"The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Stevenson is *Guilty* of this charge, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

" 3rd Charge.

"Disrespectful and contemptuous behaviour to his Colonel, and other his commanding and superior officers, in paying them no compliment either on parade or elsewhere for several months past.

"The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Stevenson is *Not Guilty* of this charge, and do therefore *acquit* him.

" 4th Charge.

"Disrespectful and contemptuous behaviour in writing and rudely delivering an improper note to his Colonel, on the 18th day of January last.

"The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Stevenson is *Guilty* of disrespectful behaviour in delivering a note to his Colonel on the 18th day of January last, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

" 5th Charge.

"Disrespectful and contemptuous behaviour to Lieutenant and Quartermaster Lessley, in writing and sending him an improper note in or about the month of August last.

"The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Stevenson is *Not Guilty* of this charge, and doth therefore *acquit* him.

"6th Charge.

"Breaking his arrest on Thursday the 8th inst.

"The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Stevenson is *Not Guilty* of this charge, and do therefore *acquit* him.

"7th Charge.

"Disobedience of orders and neglect of duty in not taking his Guard on or about the 26th of November last.

"The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Stevenson is *Guilty* of this Charge, contrary to the 1st part of the 5th Article of the 14th Section of the Articles of War.

"8th Charge.

"Disobedience of orders and neglect of duty, in absenting himself from Eastbourne, when in orders for duty, without leave, on or about the 23rd October last.

"The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Stevenson is *Guilty* of this Charge, contrary to the 5th Article of the 11th Section of the Articles of War; but that the Commanding Officer, at the time, received from Lieutenant Stevenson an apology, and gave him what he adjudged a sufficient reprimand for the offence.

"Sentence.

"In respect to the 1st and 4th Articles of which the said Lieutenant William Stevenson, hath, in part, been found *Guilty*, and of the 2nd and 7th Articles of which he the said Lieutenant William Stevenson hath as also been found *Guilty*: the Court, taking into its consideration the

5th Article of the 11th Section, and also the 2nd Article of the 24th Section of the Articles of War, doth adjudge the said Lieutenant William Stevenson to be suspended from rank and pay, within the Bedfordshire Regiment of Militia, for the space of twelve months. But the Court, taking into their consideration, also, that the said Lieutenant William Stevenson hath (excepting the instances on which he hath also been found Guilty) done his duty in the said Regiment with attention and regularity, and to the satisfaction of his Commanding Officer, doth most humbly recommend that His Majesty, in his wisdom and goodness, will be graciously pleased to permit the said Lieutenant William Stevenson to resign the Commission he now holds in the said Regiment. And with respect to the 9th or additional Article of Charge exhibited against him, the said Lieutenant William Stevenson, viz. breaking his arrest on the 14th instant, the Court is of opinion that Lieutenant William Stevenson is *Not Guilty* of this Charge, and doth therefore *acquit* him.

“His Majesty, having taken the opinion of the said Court-Martial into his serious consideration, has been pleased to approve thereof, at the same time generously attending to their recommendation, founded on Lieutenant Stevensons regular and attentive discharging his duty in every instance (except those addressed against him upon his trial), His Majesty is pleased to permit that he do now resign the Commission of Lieutenant which he holds in the Bedfordshire Regiment of Militia.”

“Proceedings of a General Court-Martial held upon Lieutenant John Carpenter of the Bedfordshire Militia.

“The Judge Advocate-General has also transmitted to General Sir John Grey His Majesty’s pleasure respecting a General Court-Martial held at Lewes on the 24th March last, and subsequent days, for the trial of Lieutenant John Carpenter of the Bedfordshire Regiment of Militia upon several Charges preferred against him.

“*1st Charge.*

“Behaving in a scandalous and infamous manner, such as is unbecoming the character of an Officer and a Gentleman, in coming into the mess-room of his Regiment on Thursday, the 25th day of January last, at Lewes; telling his Colonel, in a rude and improper manner, in the presence of sundry Officers then at dinner (several soldiers, being servants, then and there attending their masters), that the contents of a letter he had received from the Adjutant (which letter was written to him by order of the Colonel, as stated in it) ‘was false; not a word of truth in it,’ and repeating the same in a very indecent, rude, and unsoldier-like manner, to the subversion of good order and discipline, and also disobedience of orders.

“The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant John Carpenter is *Guilty* of this Charge, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and contrary to the 5th Article of the 2nd Section of the Articles of War.

"2nd Charge.

"Scandalous, infamous, and irreligious behaviour, such as is unbecoming the character of a Christian, an Officer, and a Gentleman, at St. Michael's Church on the 28th day of January last; and a violation of his Colonel's orders delivered to him on the general parade of the garrison or troops near Lewes, on the morning of that day, by the Adjutant; and for disobedience of orders on that day.

"The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant John Carpenter is *Not Guilty* of scandalous, infamous, and irreligious behaviour, such as is unbecoming the character of a Christian, an Officer, and a Gentleman, exposed in this Charge; but that he is *Guilty* of having behaved indecently and irreverently at St. Michael's Church on Sunday, the 28th of January last, in breach of the 1st Section of the 1st Article of War; and the Court doth acquit the said Lieutenant John Carpenter of the latter part of the said Charge, viz. a violation of his Colonel's orders delivered to him on the general parade of the garrison or troops near Lewes, on the morning of that day, by the Adjutant.

"3rd Charge.

"Scandalous and infamous conduct and behaviour at Eastbourne in or about the middle of August last, such as is unbecoming the character of an Officer and a Gentleman, by wantonly fighting near the usual parade of the troops with his drawn sword, and wounding a Brother Officer in

several places, and absenting himself from parade without leave at the same time.

“The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant John Carpenter is *Guilty* of this Charge, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline; but it appears in evidence that an explanation took place between the said Lieutenant Carpenter and his Commanding Officer in respect to the offence contained in the said Charge soon after it was committed, and that the Commanding Officer was properly satisfied therewith.

“*4th Charge.*

“Disrespectful and contemptuous behaviour to his Colonel and other his superior Officers, in paying them no compliments either upon parade or elsewhere for several months past.

“The Court is of opinion that Lieutenant Carpenter is *Guilty* of having omitted to pay to his Colonel when on parade the compliment customary in the Regiment, to the prejudice of good order.

“*Sentence.*

“The Court, having taken into consideration the 5th Article of the 2nd Section of the 2nd Article of War, doth adjudge the said Lieutenant John Carpenter to be dismissed from His Majesty's Bedfordshire Regiment of Militia.

“His Majesty, having taken the proceedings of the Court-Martial into his most serious consideration, has thought proper to confirm their Sentence.

"Whereby the said Lieutenant John Carpenter is adjudged to be dismissed from the Bedfordshire Regiment of Militia.

"General Sir Charles Grey directs that His Majesty's pleasure, as expressed in the foregoing orders respecting the prisoners Stevenson and Carpenter, be intimated to them.

"The above Court-Martial is dissolved.

(Signed)

"JOHN T. VISCHER,

"Aide-de-Camp.

"A true copy.

"H. Shelley, A.D.C.

"Officer Commanding Troops, Lewes."

It is believed that these two Courts-Martial are the only ones that have been held upon Officers of the Regiment since it was raised.

It would appear that Colonel Moore's differences with his Officers did not end in the Courts-Martial referred to, as, on the 3rd of March of this year General Sir Charles Grey ordered a Court of Enquiry to assemble at Lewes on the 5th, to investigate "such Charges as may be brought before them by Colonel Moore, of the Bedford Militia, on the misconduct of Lieutenants Aickin and F. Aickin, of the same Regiment.

The Court was composed of—

Major South, South Hants Militia.

Captain Doewra, Bedford Militia.

„ Pitt, South Hants Militia.

As Lieutenant F. Aickin appears in orders for picquet the day after the assembly of this Court, it may be taken for granted that the two cousins had not committed any very great offence against the Articles of War.

On the 26th of this month the Regiment was reinforced by a draft of supplementary Militia from Bedford, and these were conducted on the march to Lewes by two Officers who had been home on leave. On the 24th a General Order was issued, that in consequence of the augmentation of the old Militia from the supplementary, the Grenadier and Light Infantry companies of all Militia Regiments that had been augmented, were to be completed to 100 rank and file.

On the 26th March, Regimental Orders show that the men of the supplementary Militia who had served their time with the Regiment were dismissed, and in issuing orders for their march back to Bedford, thank them for their good conduct.

On the 30th March, a detachment of 95 rank and file, under the command of Captain Orlebar and Lieutenant Aickin, marched to Uckfield and Maresfield, there to be quartered.

On the 12th May orders were issued for the Bedfordshire Militia to march—

- 2 companies to Tunbridge Wells.
- 1 „ „ East Grinstead and Forrest Row.
- 1 „ „ Godstone and Bletchingley.
- 1 „ „ Westerham and Limpsfield.

1½ companies to Uckfield and Maresfield.

1½ „ „ Ryegate and adjacent villages.

To march on the 15th.

They were relieved at Lewes by the West Essex Militia. The head-quarters were at Westerham. On the 27th May, a very strongly-worded General Order was issued by Sir Charles Grey with reference to the misconduct of the West Middlesex Militia, in marching from Shorncliffe to Thame Bay. Colonel Bayley seems to have allowed "a total relaxation of all discipline and subordination"; the men broke loose all over the country, got drunk, and plundered houses; and Colonel Bayley is informed that unless "he effects a perfect reform of his Regiment," its condition will be reported to the Commander-in-Chief.

These records are simply intended to be what they profess, and I carefully omit any reference to the political or historical episodes of the day; but it is as well here to state, that at this time the rebellion in Ireland assumed the most serious aspect, and the French Republican Government were fitting out an expedition to assist the Irish rebels.

As has always been the case in times of emergency, the Government were obliged to look to the Militia to supply the requisite force for service in Ireland, and the Militia Regiments were called upon to volunteer to go to that Country. This step was, however, opposed in both Houses of Parliament, where Members stated various objections to the course being pursued; but on the 20th June, 1798, Mr. Dundas, Secretary at War, brought up

letters from the Colonels of the Carnarvonshire, Royal Bucks, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Caermarthenshire and Dorsetshire Militia, offering to serve in Ireland; and, on the 23rd, from the West Suffolk, South Devon, Carnarvon, Hereford, Isle of Wight, and South Lincoln; and on the 27th from the East Kent, Merioneth, and Montgomery.

The Bedfordshire Militia volunteered for service in Ireland in June, as this order will show:—

“Head-quarters,

“24th June 1798.

“Tunbridge Wells.

“Regimental After-orders.

“The report received from the Commanding Officers of companies, in consequence of orders relative to the Regiment making known their sentiments to the Colonel, in respect to the tendering their service to His Majesty to assist in quelling the rebellion in Ireland, abundantly justifies the opinion Colonel Moore ever entertained of their loyalty to their King and attachment to their Country; and when an opportunity presents itself, the Bedfordshire Militia would most cheerfully volunteer any service where they might do themselves so much honour, and particularly at this time, in assisting to protect the lives and property of our fellow-subjects against a lawless set of traitors and rebels.

“The Colonel begs to assure the whole of his Regiment that he will most cheerfully make known their sentiments,

that redound so much to their own honour, and the County for which they serve. He has not a doubt, should their service be accepted, but that they will soon return to their native homes, with the welcome and thankful congratulations of their Country and King.

"The Colonel is confident that every exertion will be used by his Brother Officers to co-operate with himself towards making everything comfortable and pleasant to every soldier, as the nature of the service will admit. He will also use his utmost interest with the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, the Deputy Lieutenants and acting Magistrates, to procure every necessary aid for the wives and children of the soldiers who have so gallantly made a tender of their service.

"The Colonel cannot avoid adding his most firm dependence that the men will continue, with their present Officers, anxious to share the honour and glory of the field, which he anticipates will attach glory to the Bedfordshire Regiment, whenever called to actual service."

In the House of Lords the proposal to send the English Militia Regiments was strongly opposed; and when the Act empowering the King for a time, and to an extent to be limited, to accept the services of the Militia for service in Ireland, the Dukes of Leeds and Norfolk both protested against it, on the ground "that any departure, under whatever circumstances, from conditions hitherto considered sacred, and on which every engagement respecting

Militia service has hitherto proceeded, must create distrust with regard to its future destination, and hereafter render it extremely difficult to find persons of property and independence disposed to serve as Officers."

These forebodings of the noble Dukes appear to have been unheeded by the Lords, and the Act was passed, and speedily received the Royal Assent; and orders were immediately given for several Militia Regiments to march to Liverpool and Bristol, for embarkation for Ireland. The Regiments ordered, I find by an old return, were—

Bedford, Colonel Moore.

Bucks, Colonel The Marquis of Buckingham.

Oxford, Colonel Lord Charles Spencer, M.P.

East Suffolk, Colonel Goate.

Warwick, Colonel The Marquis of Hertford.

Carmarthen, Colonel Johnes, M.P.

Denbigh, Colonel Sir W. Watkin Wynne, M.P.

Merioneth, Colonel Vaughan.

Montgomery, Colonel Browne.

Cambridge, Colonel The Earl of Hardwicke.

1st W. York, Colonel Earl Fitzwilliam.

2nd W. York, Colonel Viscount Downe.

Pembroke, Colonel Colby.

There can be very little doubt that the volunteering to serve in Ireland was accompanied by the payment of a bounty to the men, and that a good deal of disorder was caused by it.

The Regiment marched from Tunbridge Wells to Hastings on the 27th and 28th June, and was encamped on Bopeep Down, where it remained during July and August.

On the 4th July the Regimental Orders contain an order to march all prisoners from Hastings to Bopeep, at 5 A.M., and a Regimental Court-Martial—Captain Moore, President, Lieutenant Sawell, Ensign Nicoll, Lieutenant Turley, Ensign Comyn, members—was ordered to assemble for their trial at 6 A.M.

The Colonel ordered the Court, to “be as expeditious as the nature of the duty will permit, as he not only purposes being there himself, but will not dispense with the absence of any man whatever.”

On the 5th July, Colonel Moore read the Articles of War to the Regiment, and he then had the Sentences of the several Courts-Martial read, and the prisoners at once flogged; and he, after the parade, had the following order read to the men:—

“The Colonel cannot avoid expressing in this day’s orders his great indignation and abhorrence of the conduct of several men in his Regiment of late, notwithstanding the severe examples that have been recently made; shocked in the extreme by the number of prisoners that will this day be brought to shameful punishment, to the discredit and disgrace of the Regiment which they belong to. However unpleasant it is to the Colonel’s feeling, he is determined to do his duty; and were the whole Regiment to lose sight of their duty, allegiance, and obedience to the

law, both civil and military, he would, at the certainty of losing his life in the cause, bring them to condign punishment. Ever wishing to be the means of preventing corporal punishment, and ever studying every means to making the duty of every good soldier as easy and comfortable as possible, he is induced to give out the following Standing Orders, to prevent, if possible, the Regiment being so frequently disgraced by the behaviour of bad men, as also a trouble to the Officers, non-commissioned Officers, and all good soldiers, in being harassed, and witnesses of the very unpleasant sight of corporal punishment. The Colonel, therefore, orders, that in future no man whatever who may be brought to a Court-Martial and found guilty, that no Officer whatever, however high his rank, nor will the Colonel himself ever suffer any man so circumstanced to have any furlough, pass, or miss any guard, parade, or, in short, any duty whatever, for the space of eighteen months. The Colonel repeats that this is a Standing Order, and should any commissioned Officer violate it, he will consider it as a wilful disobedience of his orders, and treat it accordingly."

"After this warning, it is to be hoped that all men will be cautioned that they do not get into scrapes, and avoid bad company, and that the credit and reputation of the Regiment may again be brought to its wonted goodness by the sincere repentance and contrition of all bad men that have crept into it."

"The Colonel takes this opportunity of expressing in

strong terms that the opinion he ever entertained of the Bedford Militia, which he has the honour to command, having been an Officer in it nearly thirty years, is still strong in its favour, notwithstanding the present unfortunate disgraceful scene before us, and that all commissioned Officers, non-commissioned Officers and good men will henceforward unite with him in restoring the good character of the Regiment to its wonted purity. All bad men will most assuredly be most severely punished, and receive no indulgence whatever, agreeable to the standing orders of this day, and all good men shall receive every possible indulgence in consistence with the nature of the service."

This strongly-worded quaint old order may seem strange to us in 1884, but it must be remembered that in the days which we are referring to, men joined Militia Regiments as substitutes. A young Gentleman or Farmer's son was balloted for, and drew a bad number; dozens of men of questionable character were always ready, at a price, to join the Militia to replace those who did not wish to serve, and these bad characters continually served in different Militia Regiments, and the Officers were totally unable to prevent their joining, or to get rid of them when they had got them. At this time even local Magistrates used to give criminals their option of going to gaol or joining the army. In an old newspaper I found that in Berkshire several cases of highway robberies had occurred, owing to "many villains of loose character" having gone to Newbury in the hope of being paid for going as substitutes for the Militia.

On the 8th July 1798 General Orders were issued for the immediate formation of new Battalions of Militia, from the flank companies of Militia Regiments, in the Southern District; three Battalions of Grenadiers, and three of Light Infantry.

The 3rd Battalion of Grenadiers was formed at Shoreham, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Payne of the Bedford Militia, composed of six companies of men from the South Middlesex, Northampton, Denbigh, Bedford, Glamorgan, and Derby Regiments. Orders were issued that all Officers, non-commissioned Officers, and men serving in these Battalions were to have the same pay, allowances, and pensions, as the regular service.

Early in September of this year the Bedfordshire Militia, though much reduced in strength, received the route, to march from Hastings to Rock Ferry, in Cheshire, to embark for Ireland; and on the 7th September it set out on its long march, halting on the way at Cuckfield, Guildford, Cirencester, Worcester, Shrewsbury, and Chester, embarking on the morning of the 14th in transports for Dublin.

The records say that the Regiment was conveyed from Hastings to Rock Ferry in waggons.

The Irish Correspondent of the "Times" of September 24th, 1798, states under date of September 20th: "Since our last, the Bedford Militia, commanded by Colonel Moore, arrived in this City from England"; and on the 22nd he states "that the remaining companies of the Bedford,

Worcester, and South Lincoln Regiments, which had been delayed at Liverpool by contrary winds, arrived here on Thursday."

The Dublin Correspondent of the "Times" of the 1st October, states :

"Whatever loss of population the kingdom has sustained by the rebellion, will be supplied by the arrival of so many English Regiments; and should they remain here, their agricultural skill may reclaim much of our waste lands."

"We have heard of many of the Subaltern Officers and Privates being already married in Dublin; but the matrimonial duty will not entirely devolve on them—Cupid can pierce a Cornet's as easily as a Corporal's heart.

"The beautiful Miss —— has fascinated the heart of a young Marquis, and Miss ——, of Merrion Square, has made a deep impression on a young Nobleman of high rank."

The same Correspondent says, on the 29th September, that the Bedfordshire Militia left Dublin the day before on their route to country quarters.

At this time the duty of the troops in Ireland was of the most arduous nature: on the west and south coasts the French had landed, and had endeavoured to foment the rebellion, but found the rebels had no sort of organization. In the skirmishes which took place in the six months previously, several Irish Militia Regiments were engaged with the French troops.

I quote a Dublin newspaper of November 1st, to give

some sort of idea as to what service in Ireland then was:—

“On Monday last three private soldiers of the Worcester Militia, quartered in a house between Mullingar and Port Lemon, were murdered in their beds, with shocking aggravation of wanton cruelty, by a gang of armed rebels. A party of Yeomanry Cavalry hastily assembled, and pursued the murderers fifteen miles into King’s County, where unfortunately they could overtake only four of the villains; two were killed, the other two they brought in wounded and prisoners.”

The Regimental Records state that the Regiment left Dublin on the 2nd October, and marched to Trim and Kells, where it remained until September 5th in the following year.

1799.

In 1799 volunteering from the Militia to the Line was first introduced, and our records show that during this year the Bedfordshire gave 105 men. (See Appendix.)

The newspapers of the day say that very large numbers of Militiamen volunteered, and they describe the mode of volunteering.

“The British Regiments of Militia are vying with one another in volunteering into the Line. The General orders of Field-Marshal the Duke of York are read on three parades, and on the fourth day after, every man volunteering is to appear in a certain cockade.”

"On the fourth day after these orders had been read to the South Lincoln, the whole Regiment to a man appeared with a cockade, as well as several Subaltern Officers."

The Bedfordshire Militia having volunteered more than a quarter of its strength, was ordered to return to Bedford to recruit, and on the 6th September marched to Drogheda, and embarked for England on the 13th, landing at Liverpool on the 14th, and at once marched to Chester, where it halted until the 20th.

It commenced its march home, leaving Chester on the 20th October, halting at Nantwich, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Uttoxeter, Burton, Atherstone, Lutterworth, Harborough, Kettering, and Higham Ferrers, marching into Bedford on the 16th October.

1800.

The Regiment remained at Bedford until May 1800, and had a detachment at Dunstable.

I may here state for the information of many who are not aware of the magnitude of the force employed at the time we write of, that the number of troops in Ireland at the end of 1800 was:—

Regulars	.	.	.	.	45,839.
Militia	.	.	.	.	27,104.
Yeomanry	.	.	.	.	53,557.

The total military establishment of the United Kingdom (exclusive of the marine establishment 100,000 men, and the Volunteers) was 317,952 men.

In searching for information respecting my own Regiment during these times, I came across an account of the execution of two deserters, which I think is worthy of record.

“On the 20th June 1800, two of the York Hussars (Yeomanry) were shot on Bincombe Down, near Weymouth, pursuant to sentence of Court-Martial, for desertion and cutting a boat out of Weymouth Harbour, with the intention of deserting to France; they however, landed by mistake in Guernsey, where they were arrested and secured.

“The regiments in camp were drawn up (viz. the Greys, Rifle Corps, Stafford, Berkshire, and North Devon Militia.

“They came on the ground in a mourning coach, accompanied by two Priests. After going along the front, they went to the centre, where they were allowed twenty minutes for prayer; they were then shot at by a guard of twenty-four men, they dropped instantly, and expired without a groan.

“The men wheeled in sections, and marched past the bodies in slow time.”

In May 1800 we find the Regiment, after having been recruited in the County during the winter, once more upon the march, having received orders to proceed to the west of England; and early in that month it marched by Higham Ferrers, Kettering, Harborough, Atherstone, Lichfield, to Stafford, where it appears to have only halted for a week, when it marched, *vid* Wolverhampton, Kidderminster, Worcester, Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Newport, Bristol, Wells, and Bridgewater to Taunton, where it was

stationed until September. It left Taunton at the end of September, and proceeded by Honiton and Exeter to Ashburton and Newton Bushell, where it was quartered for about a month, when it was ordered to Plymouth, where it arrived in the middle of October. It did garrison duty in this Town during the winter of 1800, and the Civil Authorities publicly complimented the Regiment upon its discipline and good conduct upon the occasion of its being called out to preserve order during a large fire.

1801.

In May the Regiment moved, part into huts on Maker Heights, the remainder to Cawsand and Millbrook, and to Forts Nos. 1 and 2.

In November 1801 the Regiment received orders to return to Bedford, to be disembodied, and its march from Plymouth was no easy one, as this winter was one of the most severe on record. It left its quarters on Maker Heights on the 9th November, and the Records here give the number of miles marched each day: to—

Ivy Bridge,	November	9th,	15 miles ;
Ashburton,	„	10th,	13 „
Chudleigh,	„	11th,	10 „
Exeter,	„	13th,	10 „
Collumpton,	„	14th,	12 „
Taunton,	„	16th,	20 „
Bridgewater,	„	17th,	12 „
Wells,	„	18th,	21 „

Bath,	November 20th,	20 miles ;
Chippenham,	„ 21st,	14 „
Malmesbury,	„ 23rd,	10 „
Cirencester,	„ 24th,	11 „
Burford,	„ 25th,	17 „
Bicester,	„ 27th,	26 „
Buckingham,	„ 28th,	12 „
Newport Pagnell,	„ 30th,	14 „
Bedford,	December 1st,	17 „

making a total of 254 miles marched in seventeen days.

The Regimental Record says, on the 27th November 1801 a heavy fall of snow came on as the Regiment commenced to march from Burford to Bicester ; it was with much difficulty that several of the men were brought on, on that day's march. The baggage was impeded, and did not come up that day.

The day after the arrival of the Regiment at Bedford it was disembodied, having been on actual service nine years and eighty days.

1802, 1803.

At the close of the year 1801 Europe was exhausted by the wars that had been going on for so long ; and all Nations were looking forward to a period of peace, and a general disarmament began to take place. In England, as we have seen, the Militia were disembodied, the Volunteers were disbanded, and large numbers of the regular army were discharged. But the peace was of short duration, for

early in 1803 the insatiable spirit of conquest of Napoleon would not rest, and he unexpectedly told Lord Whitworth, the British Ambassador in Paris: "A descent upon your coasts is the only means of offence I possess; and that I am determined to attempt, and put myself at its head."

1803, 1804.

The call to arms once more sounded through Europe, and it need not be said that to this challenge the British people at once replied, by supporting their Government in every possible way in their effort to prepare to meet the coming struggle. "Majuba Hill" policy was happily unknown in England in these days, and a great and patriotic Statesman then ruled over her destinies.

On the 8th March orders were issued to call out the Militia, and ten thousand additional Seamen were voted to the Navy.

It is a curious fact, which I have never seen alluded to in the various histories of this war, that Napoleon greatly assisted the British Government in their call to arms, by himself writing a State paper, which was presented to the French Assembly, stating "that England could not contend single-handed with France." This was enough to arouse such a patriotic feeling throughout the Country, that men of all stations of life flocked in to join the various Regiments and Corps of Volunteers that were raised.

On the 25th March 1803, for the fifth time, the Bedfordshire Militia assembled, Colonel Moore in command, for

service, and was at Bedford until the 20th May, when it marched to Olney on the 21st, Stoney Stratford (23rd), Bicester (24th), Woodstock (25th), Burford (26th), Cirencester (27th), Tetbury (28th), Sodbury (30th), Bristol (31st), a march of 127 miles. It was quartered at Bristol, in Horfield Barracks, until June 26th in the following year; when it marched by Shepton Mallet (27th), Somerton (28th), to Taunton, where it arrived on the 29th, and remained there until the 22nd July, when it was ordered to proceed to a camp at Aylesbear, halting at Honiton on the 23rd. The Regiments at this camp were the Cornwall, Bedford, and Wiltshire Militia, under the command of Brigadier-General Gore.

In the month of August these Regiments had a flying camp to Henbury Fort, remained there one night, and then returned to the camp at Aylesbear. The Regiment remained at Aylesbear till the 30th October, when it went into quarters at Exeter, where it was stationed until the 13th March 1805.

I omitted to state that previous to the embodiment of the Regiment in 1803, the Lords-Lieutenant had again balloted for numbers, and the number borne by the Bedfordshire Militia at this period was No. 13.

It may not be without interest to remark that at this time the minimum height of recruits taken for the Infantry of the Line was 5 feet 4 inches; and that the "levy money" for men of this standard was six guineas, of which the recruit received five in money and necessaries. Boys

enlisting for general service received four guineas, of which they received three in money and necessaries.

During the time the Regiment was quartered at Bristol, certain differences occurred between Colonel Moore and some of the Senior Officers. I have no documents with reference to the matter, but I have been told by Officers who were aware of the circumstances, that a Court of Enquiry investigated the matter, and the result was that the Gazette of January 12th, 1805, announced that the Lord-Lieutenant had appointed John Osborn, Esq. (afterwards Sir John Osborn, Bart.), to be Colonel. The Records of the Regiment state that Colonel Moore was "displaced."*

At this time every Town and County had several Volunteer Corps, and in the London district alone there were no less than fifty-six of these Corps. A large portion of these existed more on paper than in reality, and the following account seems to show that they were not very proficient in the use of their arms:—

"A newly-raised Volunteer Corps, East of the Metropolis, met to fire for the first time, when one incautious rear-rank man loaded his musket with four successive cartridges which had not exploded; but having loaded with a fifth cartridge, the gun burst, whereby one of the front rank had his skull fractured in a fearful manner, and was

* Since these pages have been in the hands of the Publisher, by permission of the Adjutant-General I have perused the Official Papers, &c. relative to this unfortunate affair; I need say no more than that they fully corroborate what I have stated.

taken to London Hospital with the hope of his recovery. Another private was severely wounded on the side of the head and shoulder.

“We are glad to insert the above to prevent the recurrence of further mischief.”

At the end of 1803 the total number of Volunteers was :—

Infantry	.	.	.	.	297,502
Cavalry	.	.	.	.	31,600
Artillery	.	.	.	.	6,207
Total					335,509

The return of the Volunteers of the County of Bedford was :—

Cavalry	.	.	.	.	.	177
Infantry	.	.	.	.	.	1,801

The details of the Bedfordshire Volunteers were—

Colonel-in-Chief—The Earl of Upper Ossory.

Cavalry.

Bedford Troop—Captain Alston.

(Loyal) Warden Troop—Captain Lord Ongley.

Woburn—Captain the Duke of Bedford.

Infantry.

Lieut.-Col. Commandant—Hon. John Trevor.

Lieut.-Colonel—Francis Pym.

Majors—John Miller, John Harvey.

This Regiment was composed of fourteen companies.

These Volunteers were in 1808 transformed into "Local Militia," the Cavalry became a Harold and Bedford troop of Yeomanry, which after a few years ceased to exist, and "the Local Militia" consisted of the *First Regiment*, of which Samuel Whitbread, Esq., and the Marquis of Tavistock were the Lieutenant-Colonels, and the *Second Regiment*, of which Lord St. John and R. Garstin were the Lieutenant-Colonels; each Regiment had eight companies.

I believe the Colours of the 1st Regiment are to this day at Woburn Abbey; and it is worthy of remark that in 1810 Lord John Russell (afterwards Earl Russell) held a Captain's commission in the 1st Local Militia.

1805.

In March Colonel Osborn joined the Regiment at Exeter, and assumed the Command, and on the 13th of the month it marched to Newton Bushell, where it halted on the 14th, and on the following day marched into hut barracks at Berry Head. The remains of these old barracks still exist on Berry Head, very high land, on the west side of Torbay, overhanging the Town of Brixham.

The Regiment remained in this station until the 23rd July, when it marched by Newton Bushell, to a camp at Lypstone where it arrived on the 25th.

The Regiments at the camp were the Bedford, 3rd Lancashire, North Devon, and Worcester Regiments of Militia, under the command of Lieutenant General Lennox.

It should be remembered that at this time the whole

Country was in a state of alarm, and the southern coasts teemed with troops, for a French invasion was every day expected.

In July, Napoleon assembled the celebrated "Army of England" at Boulogne, a force of 113,474 men, for the invasion of this Country, and he wrote to his Minister of Marine: "The English do not know what waits them; if we are masters of the Channel for two hours, *England has lived her time.*"

These words, which convey a remarkable truth, should never be forgotten by Englishmen, and they are as applicable now as they were in 1805. It is beyond the scope of these Records to recount the History of our Country; but it was not the enormous armaments we had collected on our coasts which prevented Napoleon's scheme of invasion, but the untiring energy of Lord Nelson in pursuing the French fleet to the West Indies, and back again to Europe, and to the glorious battle of Trafalgar, which left England, as of old, mistress of the seas. That she may maintain this position, should be the prayer of every Englishman, and the bounden duty of everyone calling himself an English Statesman.

The Regimental Records state that this Brigade marched from Lympstone camp on the 15th September, taking their camp equipage with them, pitching their tents on the 16th near Exeter, 17th Newton Bushell, 18th Totness, 19th Modbury, and arriving at Hammerdon Ball, on the 20th, a march of fifty-seven miles.

On the 22nd October this camp was broken up, and the Regiments composing it dispersed; and the Bedfordshire marched by Ashburton, Chudleigh, and Exeter, to Ottery St. Mary, a fifty-two miles' march, where it was quartered during the winter.

1806.

In the spring of 1806 it received orders to proceed to Poole in Dorsetshire, and commenced its march on the 7th April by Axminster, Bridport, Dorchester, Blandford, to Poole, where it arrived on the 11th, seventy-six miles. It, however, only remained at this place for ten days, as on the 21st April it was again on the march *via* Ringwood, Southampton, to Fareham on the 24th, where it was billeted until the 1st May, when it moved to Portsea, and remained there until the 17th June, when it went into Barracks at Gosport.

In June of this year, Mr. Sawell, who had joined the Regiment in 1780, and who had acted as Paymaster during every embodiment, and had accompanied the Regiment during this long time, retired, and was succeeded by Mr. Durand as Paymaster (29th July 1806).

The Regiment remained at Gosport only until the 23rd August, when it was detached, two companies to the Isle of Wight, one to Aston Barns; the head-quarters being at Colewort Barracks, Portsmouth. It remained stationed as stated, until the 1st October, when it was brought together in Hilsea Barracks, Portsmouth.

On the 28th October it moved across the harbour,

to what was then called the Gosport Military Barracks, to distinguish them from the Royal Marine Barracks.

On the 7th November it moved to Fort Monckton, and remained there until the 15th February 1808.

1808.

It may be here remarked that the Returns of the Army at this time show—

Regular troops	(nearly) 200,000 men.
Volunteers (of whom 25,000 were cavalry)	290,000 „
Militia	80,000 „

In this Return, bayonets and sabres alone counted.

At the end of this year many Regiments of Volunteers were changed into "Local Militia."

In August, English troops first landed in Spain.

On the 15th February, the Bedfordshire Militia marched from Fort Monckton to Winchester, halting on the 16th at Southampton, and was stationed at Winchester Barracks until the end of July.

In March the Regiment went to Southampton, for duty during the Assizes, and returned when they were over.

On the 1st August the Regiment received orders to proceed to Weedon, and marched by Basingstoke (August 1st), Reading (2nd), Wallingford (3rd), Oxford (4th), Woodstock (5th), Banbury (6th), Daventry (8th), and on the 9th to Weedon. At this place large new barracks

had been built, and the Bedfordshire Militia was the first Regiment that occupied them.

1809, 1810.

The Regiment remained at Weedon during the whole of 1809 and spring of 1810, and on the 2nd July marched by Newport Pagnell (2nd), Dunstable (3rd), St. Albans (4th), Highgate (5th), Bromley (6th), Sevenoaks (7th), Tunbridge Wells (9th), Rotherbride (10th), arriving at Hastings on the 11th, having marched 144 miles.

On the 10th August, it marched with camp equipage, *viâ* Hailsham to Lewes, where it was encamped, and on the 13th marched to Brighton, where it was Brigaded with the 32nd Foot and 36th Foot at a Review on Balls Down, in the presence of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Most of the troops in the Sussex District were assembled.

In August 1810 Captain Trelawny, who had been Adjutant of the Regiment since 1793, retired, and was succeeded by Captain William Hardgrove.

Much of the good order and credit, which has been handed down to the present Bedfordshire Militiamen, is due to the soldier-like qualities which Captain Trelawny possessed. I have taken a good deal of trouble to find out where Captain Trelawny ended his honourable life, but have not succeeded.

On the 13th November the Regiment marched by Bexhill

(13th), Eastbourne (14th), to Blatchington, where it went into huts on the 15th, and remained there till December 26th, 1810, when it marched by Brighton to Horsham, where it was quartered till the 3rd February 1811, when it was ordered to Littlehampton and Bognor, marching by Petworth (4th), Chichester (5th), going into Barracks on the 6th.

1812, 1813.

It remained at Littlehampton until April 1812, when it received orders to proceed to Norman Cross in Huntingdonshire, to form part of a guard over French prisoners.

It commenced its march on the 28th April. The Records state that on this march the Men were conveyed in waggons, and Officers in post-chaises, &c. The waggons were changed at each town.

This long march was made in six days.

First day (April 29th, 1812) to Petworth, Godalming, and Guildford; second day (April 30), to Kingston, Highgate, and Barnet; third day (May 1st), St. Albans, Dunstable, and Newport Pagnell; fourth day (May 2nd), to Northampton; fifth day (May 3rd), to Wellingborough, Thrapstone, and Oundle; sixth day (May 4th), to Norman Cross; a distance of 166 miles.

The reason for this quick transport of troops across the Country was that very large numbers of French prisoners had arrived from Spain, and a strong force was necessary to guard them.

It remained at Norman's Cross until October 28th,

1812, when it marched by Peterborough (29th), Wisbeach (30th), Downham Market (31st), Swaffham (Nov. 2), East Dereham (Nov. 3), Norwich (Nov. 4th), to North Yarmouth, where it was stationed until June 1813. Troubles again began in Ireland, and the Regiment received orders once more to proceed with the utmost speed to Bristol, for embarkation to that Country. Its march was Beccles (June 14th), Hotsworth (15th), Saxmundham (16th), Woodbridge (17th), Ipswich (18th), Colchester (19th), Wytham (21st), Chelmsford (22nd), Brentwood (23rd), Bow and Stratford (24th), Brentford (25th), Maidenhead (26th), Reading (28th), Newbury (29th), Hungerford (30th), Marlborough (1st July), Chippenham (2nd), Marshfield (3rd), Bristol (5th), a distance of 251 miles.

It embarked at Bristol on the 14th July 1813, and landed at the Pigeon-house Fort, Dublin, on the 19th, and marched to Kilcock and Maynooth the same day. On the 20th it halted at Kinnegad, and marched to Tullamore on the 21st July, and halted there until the 27th, when it proceeded to Athlone where it was quartered until the 29th August.

1814.

On the 29th August it marched to Roscommon, where it was stationed until July 1814, having marched since leaving Yarmouth no less than 344 miles.

On the 26th July 1814 it returned to Athlone, remaining there till September, when it received orders to hold itself

in readiness to return to England, the cause of this being the Peace of 1814, and the return home of the Peninsula Army under the Duke of Wellington.

It commenced its march on the 26th September and marched by Kilbeggan (27th), Kinnegad (28th), Kilcock 29th, embarking at Dublin for England on the 30th September, disembarking on the 10th October.

At Liverpool it received orders to proceed to Colchester, and marched by Warrington (Oct. 13th), Northwick (14th), Sandbach (15th), Newcastle-under-Lyne (17th), Uttoxeter (18th), Burton-on-Trent (19th), Atherstone (20th), Lutterworth (21st), halting there six days, Market-Harborough (27th), Kettering (28th), Higham Ferrers (29th), St. Neots (31st), Cambridge (Nov. 1st), Haverhill (Nov. 2nd), Halstead (Nov. 3rd), marching into Colchester Barracks on the 4th November, the distance from Liverpool to Colchester being 246 miles.

On the 12th December the Regiment moved to Woodbridge and Ipswich, and was stationed in these Towns until January in the following year.

1815.

In January orders were issued for the disembodiment of all the Regiments of Militia, owing to peace having been proclaimed, and the Bedfordshire Militia left its last quarters on the 23rd January 1815, and marched on its homeward route by Ipswich (23rd), Sudbury (24th), Haverhill (25th), Saffron-Walden (26th), Royston (27th),

Biggleswade (28th), Bedford (30th); and it was disembodied on the 1st February 1815, having been on actual service for twelve years all but fifty-one days.

This may be taken as the end of what is termed in Regimental language the "old Bedfordshire Militia," for after this time the Regiment only existed on paper for many years. The arms were sent into stores at Weedon, and only the Adjutant and a few old Sergeants were retained on the strength of the Regiment, and this Staff had a storehouse rented by the County, near Castle Close, Bedford.

It has been stated in many accounts of the Battle of Waterloo (18th June 1815), that the Regiments composing the British Army in that great Victory were mostly composed of Militiamen, and I have seen it recorded that men of the 2nd Battalion of the 14th (Bedfordshire) Regiment, after the battle, were found lying dead in the uniform of the Bedfordshire and Berkshire Militia. This is recorded by Officers who served in the 14th Regiment, and there is no reason to doubt it; but I can find no orders for the Militia to volunteer, nor can I find any accounts that they did so. In case I may be misunderstood, I may mention that the 14th Regiment was the "Bedfordshire Regiment" until 1818, when the County titles were changed, and the 16th Regiment, until then the Buckinghamshire, became the Bedfordshire.

I have entered, possibly some of my Brother Officers may think, too much into details of dates, &c., but I have done

so on purpose to show how carefully and accurately the records of the old Regiment have been kept.

We are all proud of our records ; and although we have no battles or campaigns to record, like every Regiment of the Line, we think our Regiment has seen Militia service which few other Militia Regiments can equal. Our Regiment had traversed England repeatedly, had twice been sent to Ireland, and was destined at a future date to again go there ; and in all these quarters, and in nearly every Town in England, the Regiment invariably left with the good-will of the inhabitants.

1815 to 1850.

During this period the Militia may be said to have ceased to exist, except a list of Officers in the "Army List."

In 1848 the Colonel, Sir John Osborn, Bart., died, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. Gilpin, who had joined the Regiment as a Captain in 1820, was promoted to succeed him. Colonel Gilpin was a Captain on the half-pay of the 14th Light Dragoons, Major W. B. Higgins being promoted to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy.

1850.

In this year public attention was called to the defenceless condition of the Country ; forty years' peace had made people overlook the fact that England possessed hardly any army and no reserves of any kind.

1851, 1852.

In the following year a letter written by General Sir John Fox Burgoyne, K.C.B., of the Royal Engineers, which was never intended for publication, found its way into the Press, and the plain truth contained in it, viz. "that it was useless to erect fortifications if we had no soldiers to man them," caused universal attention; and in 1852 a scheme was brought before the House of Commons for the re-organization of the Militia. The system of balloting for men was suspended, but the Act in question was not, nor has it been since, repealed; and orders were issued, which were received by the Bedfordshire Militia on the 19th July 1852, to commence enrolling men under the new system, viz. of giving each recruit ten shillings on enrolment, and a bounty at the end of each year's annual training.

It was ordered, at the same time, that every Militia Regiment should be liable to fifty-six days' drill each year, and that the recruits should have one month's preliminary drill in the first year in addition to the annual training; but this was soon changed to fifty-six days' preliminary drill, and the annual training was fixed at twenty-one days.

In this year the Bedfordshire Militia was made "Light Infantry," and the new clothing had the same old dark-green facings which the Regiment had always worn.

The Bedfordshire (Light Infantry) assembled for the

first time for the annual training on the 16th November 1852, on St. Peter's Green, Bedford, and the training was almost entirely squad drill; and, as the weather was very bad, the companies drilled in the London and North-Western Railway sheds.

The strength of the Regiment was:—

1 Colonel,
1 Lieutenant-Colonel,
1 Major,
6 Captains,
6 Lieutenants,
4 Ensigns,
550 rank and file.

It does not appear that this year there was any official inspection of the Regiment.

1853.

The Regiment assembled for training on the 27th September, and was dismissed on the 23rd October.

It was inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel Webber Smith, 95th Regiment, and by the Lord-Lieutenant Earl de Grey, on the cricket ground. An official report was made that the old Militia store-house was quite unfit for the use required of it.

1854, 1855.

The annual training commenced on the 5th May, dismissed on the 1st June. Colonel Bush, Inspecting Officer,

London Recruiting District, officially inspected the Regiment.

At this inspection a somewhat curious incident occurred: Colonel Bush himself took command of the Regiment, and put it through several manœuvres. Colonel Gilpin officially reported this, and asked for an opinion on the subject; and orders were issued to prevent such an irregularity for the future.

In February 1854 the Crimean War broke out, and 27,000 English troops were despatched first to Constantinople, and afterwards to Varna; and in September the French and English armies landed in the Crimea. On September 20th the Battle of the Alma was fought; on the 30th September Sevastopol was invested; on the 25th October the celebrated cavalry battle of Balaclava was fought; and on the 5th November the battle of "Inkerman," perhaps the most hand-to-hand, stubborn fight of modern days. It was manifest then that the war would be of long duration, and in July 1854 orders were issued for the embodiment of several Militia Regiments.

The Bedfordshire Light Infantry received orders on the 15th July, and assembled on the 1st August, Colonel Gilpin in command.

The Regiment remained at Bedford to form, until the 19th, when it proceeded by railway, in two divisions, to Berwick-on-Tweed, where it was quartered until the following January.

At the end of October orders were issued for men of the Militia to be allowed to volunteer for the Guards and Line, and at this time a bounty of £9 and a free kit was offered to men ; 130 men at once volunteered, and during the year 1854 no less than 245 men volunteered from the Regiment.

This large loss of men necessitated a return to the County to recruit ; and on the 4th and 5th January 1855 the Regiment marched out of Berwick, and proceeded to Bedford, each wing halting for a night at York, where they were billeted.

They arrived at Bedford on the 5th and 6th January, and were billeted in the Town until July.

The Officers hired a private house in St. Mary's for their mess.

On the 17th April 1855 new Colours were presented to the Regiment by the Duchess of Bedford, on Industry Close ; the Regimental Colour bearing the motto : "Bedfordshire Light Infantry—Pro aris et focis."

It may be here remarked that these were the third set of Colours that the Regiment had borne. The first were presented by the Duchess of Bedford in 1760 ; the second when the Regiment was quartered in Bedford, between October 1799 and May 1800, which were also presented by the Duchess of Bedford. The Regiment was originally raised by the House of Russell ; and as long as Colours are carried by the Regiment, new ones will always be presented by the Duchess of Bedford.

In the summer of this year some mischievous lawyer discovered a quibble in the attestations of the men of the Militia, and the engagements of a large number of the men were found to be illegal. The consequence was that seventy men of the Bedfordshire were discharged, these men having refused to be re-attested, although a special bounty of £1 was offered to them.

To show what curious men soldiers are to deal with, nearly the whole of these men, who then refused £1 bounty, a few months afterwards rejoined the Regiment at a much lower bounty.

An interesting ceremony took place at Bedford on the 18th September, the old Colours of the Regiment were presented by Colonel Gilpin, on parade, to Captain Leech, the old Adjutant of the Regiment. Captain Leech had served for a long time as Adjutant, and it is stated that when Captain Leech died in 1857 he left a request that the old Colours might be buried with him ; but whether this was done or not, I am unable to say.

On the 20th July 1855, the Regiment proceeded by railway to Aldershot, and was stationed in the South Camp. The camp at this time was under the command of Major-General Knollys, and nearly all the Regiments were Militia.

On the 10th December the Regiment left Aldershot for Ireland, one wing (right) halting for the night at Lichfield, the left wing at Stafford ; on the 11th both wings embarked at Liverpool in the evening, and on the morning of

the 12th disembarked at Kingstown, and proceeded by railway, three companies to Galway, one company to Oughterard, two companies to Loughrea.

Colonel Gilpin, M.P., was detained in England by Parliamentary duties, and did not go to Ireland at all, and Lieut.-Colonel W. B. Higgins commanded the Regiment during the time it was in Ireland.

During its stay in Ireland the men seem to have been very popular with the people, and with one single exception, no sort of quarrel arose. The exception was at Loughrea, when a man of one of the companies died, and, being a Protestant, was being buried according to the rites of the Established Church. This, however, seems to have excited the animosity of two Roman Catholic Priests—men, it is to be regretted, in Ireland, of the lowest possible origin, and of an extraordinary ignorance. These men excited the people to insult the funeral, and to throw stones, &c. at the troops. The Officers had the greatest difficulty in restraining their men, and in preventing a retaliation, in which, at all events, Irish blood would have been spilt.

During the time the Regiment was at Galway, another call for volunteers was made, and thirty men went to the Line and Guards.

1856.

On the 12th April 1856 the Regiment was ordered to Dublin, and occupied the Linen Hall Barracks. It took

part in the Review, and also in the public illuminations and rejoicings which everywhere were held at the termination of the Crimean War.

It remained doing garrison duty in Dublin until the 3rd June, when it received orders to return to Bedford; it embarked at the North Wall, Dublin, and disembarked at Liverpool, and proceeded by railway to Bedford, where it was billeted until the 2nd July 1856, when it was disembodied, having been on actual service one year and eleven months.

The day before the Regiment was disembodied, Colonel Gilpin addressed the men as follows:—

“Bedfordshire Light Infantry—

“Having received the Queen’s command that the Regiment should be disembodied, I avail myself of this opportunity to say a few parting words to you.

“It is now within a few days of two years since the warrant was signed for our embodiment. In that brief interval we have served on the borders of Scotland, at the great military camp at Aldershot, in the west of Ireland, and for a short time in the garrison of Dublin; in all of these places we have merited the approval of our military Commanders.

“Since our return home we have received a complimentary address from the Mayor and Magistrates of the Borough, and shall carry with us in our retirement the kind feelings of the inhabitants of our native Town.

“As an Englishman, I must rejoice that the calamities

of war have been averted, and must hope that the blessings of peace may long be continued to our Country.

“As a man, I cannot but feel a pang at parting with those with whom I have been so closely connected, whom I have been so proud to command, and whose conduct has reflected such credit on all.

“And well may I be proud of my command ; for whilst the small number of courts-martial sufficiently attests the discipline of the Corps, I find that more than two-thirds of the men have never had their names in the Defaulter Book at all.

“The crimes generally have been of a trivial character, usually for temporary absence ; out of 1,211 men who have passed through our ranks, only eighty-four names have been entered for drunkenness, one case only of theft, none of violence ; whilst the numbers attending our school have averaged 230. I have a right to say, then, that conduct such as this reflects credit on all.

“And now, men, you are about to return to your homes, remember with pride that you have received the thanks of your Queen, the Commander-in-Chief, and of both Houses of Parliament, for your services. Let me entreat you, on resuming your duties as citizens, not to forfeit the character you have obtained as soldiers. Indeed, a good soldier can hardly make a bad citizen. Be obedient to the law, respectful to your superiors, peaceful and contented in your several situations ; and when the Queen again calls for your services, rally round your Colours with the cheerfulness and

alacrity you have always evinced, and which is so truly the characteristic of the British soldier.

"I bid you farewell. May you enjoy health and happiness, and may God bless you all."

The Regiment then gave three cheers.

1857.

It was not destined that the Regiment should long remain disembodied, for in the summer of this year all England was convulsed with the terrible news of the mutiny which had broken out amongst the Sepoy troops in India, and almost all the available regular soldiers in the kingdom were embarked for that Country.

As usual, the services of the Militia were required, and the Bedfordshire assembled at Bedford for embodiment on the 2nd November. They remained at Bedford until the 8th December, when they proceeded to Aldershot, where they were stationed in huts in the South Camp.

It is to their credit, that the newspapers published at the time state that when they left Bedford not a man was absent, and not one drunk.

It should be here stated that during the time they were disembodied a new Militia Depôt had been erected by the County, and in which not only the arms and clothing were stored, but also quarters for most of the non-commissioned Officers of the permanent staff.

In the spring of 1857 Captain Johnes Smith, the Adju-

tant, was appointed Chief Constable of Cheshire, and Ensign and Adjutant George Toseland, of the 33rd Regiment, was appointed to succeed him, with the rank of Captain.

Captain Toseland, a native of the adjoining County of Huntingdon, had served for many years in the Grenadier Guards, and was promoted from Drill-Sergeant to be Sergeant-Major of the 3rd Battalion of that Regiment in the Crimea, in the place of the Sergeant-Major who had been killed at the battle of Inkerman.

Sergeant-Major Toseland's exceptional qualities soon became manifest in organizing the large drafts that joined the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadiers after Inkerman, and attracted the attention of the Staff Officers of the Army; and shortly afterwards the state of the 33rd Regiment, which had been cut up at the Alma, Inkerman, and in the trenches, became so bad that they had hardly any Officers or non-commissioned Officers for duty, and large drafts joining; and it was under these circumstances that Sergeant-Major Toseland was offered, and accepted, a commission as Ensign and Adjutant.

He had hardly joined his new Regiment when it formed part of the Light Division which attacked the Redan, and Ensign Toseland distinguished himself by his coolness and by the extraordinary control he exercised over these young troops. His Colonel was severely wounded, and Mr. Toseland, although within a few yards of the Russian infantry, coolly took up the Colonel in his arms and

carried him to a place of safety, and while doing this, a bullet took the greater part of his ear off.

It was not to the credit of the authorities that Mr. Toseland was not awarded the Victoria Cross, which he richly deserved; but at the end of the war he received, in addition to the Turkish and Crimean medals, the Order of Knight of the French Legion of Honour.

The writer of these records was at that time Regimental Adjutant of the Grenadier Guards, and it was entirely through him that the Bedfordshire Militia heard of and obtained the services of Captain Toseland, and it is with the greatest satisfaction that he records it, as he is certain that no Officer who ever served in the Regiment left more lasting marks of his zeal, abilities, and soldier-like qualities than Captain Toseland.

In August 1857 Her Majesty reviewed the troops of the Aldershot Division, and it may be remarked that this was the first time Her Majesty had seen her soldiers in the new tunic.

The Regiment remained at Aldershot during the winter, and, by way of training the men, alarms were occasionally given and the troops turned out, and the North Camp used to cross the canal, and attack the South Camp.

On one of these occasions a guard of a certain Militia Regiment occupied the pontoon bridge, and the Subaltern in charge was ordered "to take the usual precautions"; when the enemy appeared, he turned out his guard and

“presented arms,” and was taken prisoner, and, I need not add, for a long time did not hear the last of it.

1858.

On the 16th June 1858 the Regiment was ordered to Dover, and occupied the Castle, new barracks which had only been lately built.

In August of this year, H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge inspected the Dover garrison, and afterwards had luncheon with the Officers of the Regiment at the Castle.

1859.

While at this station the excellent arrangements for the schools of the regiment, which were entirely managed by Major Stuart, were especially noticed and reported upon in the most flattering terms by Major-General Craufurd, Commanding the Division.

In June 1859 the Regiment returned to Aldershot, and occupied F Block, P.B., South Camp; and while at this camp volunteered a large number of men to the Guards and Line.

In August it received sudden orders to leave Aldershot, and left, head-quarters and two companies on the 9th August to Weymouth, two companies to Dorchester, one company to Portland, and one company to furnish the guard over the powder magazine at Marchwood, near Southampton.

In November, a sentry of the company stationed at Portland, guarding the convicts, saw a woman approach-

ing him, and, seeing something suspicious, stopped her, when he at once saw it was a man in woman's clothes. He charged his bayonet, and threatened to run the convict through if he moved. The man at once surrendered, and the sentry was rewarded as well as complimented for his vigilance and determination.

In recording this circumstance the Weymouth newspapers state: "We have ascertained that a better-behaved Regiment has never been either there, or in Weymouth; Mr. Lawrence, the Governor of the County Gaol, volunteering the assurance that, during the comparatively long period the Bedfordshire have been amongst us, not one of them has ever been in the gaol for any offence, civil or military."

During their stay at Weymouth the Officers gave several theatrical entertainments.

1860.

On the 2nd March the Regiment left its quarters at Weymouth, &c., and proceeded to Portsmouth, changing quarters with the East Kent Militia, and occupied the Colewort Barracks. Major-General Lord William Paulet, C.B., commanded the South-West District.

On the 24th May it was inspected by the General, who expressed himself much pleased at the general appearance of the men.

On the 1st October 1860 the Regiment was again inspected on Southsea Common by Major-General Lord

William Paulet, and at the close his Lordship formed square and said :

“Colonel Gilpin,—I can but say how pleased I am with your Regiment, more especially as the inspection was quite unexpected, you having only had notice of it last evening. The steadiness and soldierly bearing of the men, and the manner in which they have gone through their work to-day, are beyond all praise. The interior economy of the Regiment is equally good : your books are well kept, your barracks are in first-rate order and thoroughly clean. The conduct of the men of the Bedfordshire, while they have been in this garrison, reflects all possible credit on you, your Officers, your men themselves, and the County to which you belong.”

1861.

The Indian Mutiny was now quelled, and most of the other Militia Battalions had been for some time disembodied, and the Bedfordshire was one of the last kept embodied ; and on the 7th February 1861 the Regiment left Portsmouth under War Office orders, as follows, to proceed home to be disembodied :—

“Her Majesty having been pleased to sign orders for the disembodiment of the Light Infantry Regiment of Militia of the County of Bedford with all convenient speed, I am commanded to express to you the very great satisfaction which Her Majesty has received from the exemplary services of the said Corps under your command.

"I cannot conclude this letter without expressing through you the satisfaction I feel in having the honour of signing, on the present occasion, Her Majesty's gracious approbation of the services of the Officers and Men belonging to the Regiment under your command.

Signed "SIDNEY HERBERT."

General Orders to the same effect were issued by Lord William Paulet, C.B., commanding at Portsmouth; and a Resolution of the Town Council of Portsmouth was also passed, bearing testimony to the good conduct of the men of the Regiment.

The Regiment returned to Bedford on the 7th February; and previous to its disembodiment a public dinner was given to the men at the Corn Exchange.

During this embodiment no less than £791 was paid by the men into the Savings Bank, and at the time of the disembodiment £333 remained to their credit. No greater proof could be evinced to show the steady stamp of men then serving.

On the 14th February the Regiment was disembodied, having been on actual service for 3 years 105 days.

As this ends the embodied service of the Regiment up to the present time, it may not be out of place if I recapitulate its embodied service:—

		Years.	Months.
First embodiment, 1760 to 1761	.	1	7
Second „ 1778 to 1783	.	5	

			Years.	Months.
Third embodiment,	1793 to 1801	.	9	4
Fourth	„ 1803 to 1815	.	11	10
Fifth	„ 1854 to 1856	.	1	11
Sixth	„ 1857 to 1861	.	3	4
Total			33 years.	

Disembodied Period at Bedford.

1862.

Assembled for Training, 27th May, for 21 days. Inspected by Major-General Lawrence.

1863.

Assembled for 21 days, 24th April. Inspected by Lieut.-General Craufurd.

1864.

Assembled for 21 days, 18th April. Inspected by Colonel Stephenson, Scots Fusilier Guards.

1865.

Assembled for 27 days, May 1st. Inspected by Colonel Pipon.

1866.

Assembled for 27 days, 23rd April. Inspected by Colonel Ponsonby, Grenadier Guards.

1867.

Assembled for 27 days, April 29th. Inspected by Colonel The Hon. Dudley Carleton, Coldstream Guards.

1868.

Assembled for 27 days, 27th April. Inspected by Major.-Gen. Hon. James Lindsay.

1869.

Assembled for 27 days, May 3rd. Inspected by Colonel Stephenson, Scots Fusilier Guards.

In this year a departure from the ordinary monotony of a training took place, as four Regiments of Militia, the Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, and Hertfordshire, were ordered to assemble in Woburn Park, by permission of the Duke of Bedford, to be Brigaded for the Inspection of Major-General The Hon. James Lindsay, the Inspector-General of Auxiliary Forces. These regiments mustered: Bedfordshire, 600 men; Oxford, 758; Hertfordshire, 454; Northampton, 880.

The weather appears to have been exceedingly close and hot, and the men of all the Regiments suffered a good deal, and all military movements were rendered all but impossible owing to the crowd of spectators, which partly impeded the formation of the troops.

The Bedfordshire Volunteers were ordered to parade to assist in keeping the ground, but the newspapers state that very few of them obeyed the order, "as many Volunteers had a decided objection to becoming subservient to an inferior force, as regards the position of the men, and consequently there was only a small number present."

It is lucky for these warriors that they were never called

upon to face the enemies of their country, for unless the enemy had been of their "class," the result would not have been very doubtful, and it is to be hoped their successors have discovered that obedience of orders is the first duty of a Soldier, including Volunteers.

1870.

Assembled for 27 days, May 9th. Inspected by Colonel Burnaby, Grenadier Guards.

1871.

Assembled for 27 days, May 1st. Inspected by Major-General H.S.H. Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, C.B.

1872.

Assembled for 27 days, 20th May. Inspected by Major-General H.S.H. Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, C.B.

In this year the establishment of the Regiment was augmented from 555 to 600 Privates.

1873.

In the spring of this year the system of appointing Colonels of what were then called Brigade Depôts was established, and Colonel Donovan was the first Colonel of the 16th Brigade Depot.

Assembled for 27 days, 28th April. Inspected by Colonel Donovan.

In the autumn a still further augmentation of the Regiment took place, and two additional companies were added to the strength, making a total of 720 Privates, or 820 in all.

1874.

In April of this year Major and Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel Judd retired, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John M. Burgoyne, Bart., late of the Grenadier Guards, was appointed to the Regiment as Major.

Assembled for 27 days, April 27th. Inspected by Colonel Donovan.

1875.

Assembled for 27 days, April 19th. Inspected by Colonel Donovan.

Strength at Inspection, 764.

1876.

Assembled for 27 days, April 24th. Inspected by Colonel Donovan.

Strength, 779.

1877.

Assembled for 27 days, 23rd April. Inspected by Colonel Willis, C.B.

Strength, 765.

The chacos were taken away after the training, also the old pouch-belts.

By W. O. Circular, a still further alteration was made in the strength of the Regiment, and the number of Privates increased to 800, making a total of 904.

1878.

In this year England was on the very verge of a war with Russia, and the Army Reserve men and the Militia Reserve men were called out for service.

On the 4th April 1878 orders were received for the mobilization of the Militia Reserve on the 19th April, which day the War Office clerks, with their accustomed blundering, forgot was Good Friday, and the date was subsequently altered to the 20th April.

The Regiment had on its strength 169 Militia Reserve men. All these were present on the 20th April, with the exception of two men, one of whom joined on the 10th May, stating that he had not heard of the Reserve being called out, his notice not having reached him, as he had left home and gone to work on a railway. The other man was reported to have emigrated, and was struck off as a deserter.

These men were distributed as follows :—

1st Battalion 16th Regiment	.	.	69 men
„ 56th Regiment	.	.	1 man
Army Hospital Corps	.	.	45 men
Army Service Corps	.	.	50 „
			165 men

The following general order was issued :—

“1. The period fixed by Royal Proclamation for the mobilization of the Reserve forces having now expired, H.R.H. the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has received the Queen's commands to convey to the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Soldiers of Her Majesty's Army the expression of her high opinion of the very satis-

factory manner in which the men composing the Army and Militia Reserves have responded to the call made upon them.

"2. The Queen is well aware of the fact that the men had, in many cases, to give up their engagements; and feels sure that the Army and the nation at large will appreciate as fully as Her Majesty the patriotic and soldier-like spirit displayed on this occasion.

"By command,

"C. H. ELLIS, A.G."

New pattern collar-badges (a bugle) were issued in May of this year.

In July the Militia Reserve men were dismissed, and sent to their Militia Regiment. The men of the Bedfordshire reached Bedford on the 27th and 28th July, and all were paid off and dismissed by the 30th July.

During the time they were on Army service two men of the Army Service Corps and one of the Hospital Corps were discharged as unfit for service.

The following general order was issued on the 29th July 1878 :—

"1. H.R.H. the Feld-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has received the Queen's commands to convey to the N.C Officers and Soldiers of the Army and Militia Reserves, who are now about to return to their homes, Her Majesty's entire approbation of the manner in which they have performed their duties whilst serving with the Colours.

"2. The cheerfulness and alacrity with which they responded to the call made upon them, at a period of national emergency, has made a deep and most favourable impression upon Her Majesty.

"3. The Queen trusts that the men who must, in many cases, have left avocations in civil life to fulfil their duty to their Country, will soon find re-employment of labour, and Her Majesty feels assured that many employers of labour will gladly avail themselves of the services of those who have displayed so loyal and patriotic a spirit."

The new barracks at Kempston were first occupied this year.

Assembled for 27 days, 6th May. Inspected by Colonel Hawley. Strength 859.

1879.

On the 24th January 1879 Colonel Sir Richard Gilpin, Bart., retired from the command of the Regiment, having held the command since 1848; and was at the same time appointed Honorary-Colonel of the Regiment.

It may be here remarked that the rank of Colonel in the Militia was abolished in 1853, and after that date no further appointments to that rank were made; and, at the same time, the rank of Honorary-Colonel of Militia Regiments was adopted. Lieut.-Colonel and Honorary-Colonel William Stuart assumed the command.

There has probably been no Officer of the Militia to

whom that force owes more than to Sir Richard Gilpin; he had been almost born in the Regiment, joined it as an Ensign when he was a lad, and commanded it for an unusually long period. His whole thoughts were always occupied with it, and I am in a position to say that about the last words he uttered were concerning the welfare of the old Regiment.

In his place in Parliament, as Member for Bedfordshire, the soldier, whether Regular or Militiaman, had no better friend; and on his retirement from the Regiment he carried with him the affection and respect of everyone connected with it.

This year, by way of economy, owing to the large national expenses of the Mobilization, Militia Regiments only assembled for 20 days. The Regiment assembled 17th May, and was inspected by Colonel Hawley. Strength 875.

1880.

Assembled for 27 days, April 19th. Inspected by Colonel Hawley. Strength 814.

Just before this year's training Major Josselyn (96th Regiment) was appointed Chief Constable of Bedfordshire; he, however, served during the training, and then resigned his commission in the Militia, and retired from the Army upon half-pay, receiving the rank of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.

This was a very great loss to the Regiment; Colonel

Josselyn had served for many years as Adjutant of the 96th, and was probably one of the best Adjutants the Bedfordshire Militia has ever had.

Under the new Territorial system Militia Commanding Officers were to be allowed no voice in the selection of the Adjutant, and the appointment was given to any Captain of the affiliated Line Regiment who chose to apply for it.

Captain Whittuck, of the 1st Battalion 16th Regiment, was appointed Adjutant of the Bedfordshire Militia.

1881.

This may be said to end another chapter in the history of the Regiment, and also the existence of the Bedfordshire (Light Infantry) Militia; for the new Territorial system was adopted, under which the Militia Force of the United Kingdom was to disappear, in many cases under incongruous titles, and the old local feeling, which had made the Militia the popular and constitutional force of the Kingdom was suppressed.

Nothing could have been more unpopular in Bedfordshire, with the County, and with the Officers and Men of the Regiment, than taking away from them the old dark-green facings, which they and their predecessors in the Regiment had worn for a hundred and twenty years, and making them the third Battalion of a Line Regiment.

The result of this was that the men misunderstood the

change, and the recruiting began immediately to fall off, and for the first time in its history the Regiment was over one hundred men under its strength.

On the 1st May the general orders for the new change of system were issued.

“ Army Organization.”

“ Para. I.—The following changes in the organisation, titles, and uniforms of the Regiments of the Infantry of the Line and Militia having been approved, are promulgated for general information. When not otherwise stated, they will come into effect on the 1st July 1881.

“ Para. II.—*Organization.*—The Infantry of the Line and Militia will in future be organized in Territorial Regiments, each of Four Battalions, for England, Scotland, and Ireland; the 1st and 2nd Battalions of these being Line Battalions, and the remainder Militia.

“ These Regiments will bear a Territorial designation corresponding to the localities with which they are connected, and the words ‘ Regimental District ’ will in future be used, and take the place of ‘ Sub-District ’ hitherto employed.

“ Para. VIII.—*Honours and Distinctions.*—All distinctions, mottoes, badges, or devices, appearing hitherto in the ‘ Army List,’ or on the Colours, as borne by either of the Line Battalions of a Territorial Regiment, will in future be borne by both Battalions.

"Battalions which have not hitherto borne a special device, will adopt a National Badge:—

English Regiments	.	.	A Rose.
Scotch	„	.	A Thistle.
Irish	„	.	A Shamrock.
Welsh	„	.	A Dragon.

"Para. IX.—*Uniform*.—With the exception noted in Para. XIII. the Uniform of all the Battalions of a Territorial Regiment will be the same. The title of the Regiment will be shown on the shoulder-strap.

"Para. X.—The facings, and the Officers' lace of the Territorial Regiments, will be the same for all Regiments belonging to the same County (Royal and Rifle Regiments excepted), and will be as follows, viz. :—

	Facings.	Lace.
English and Welsh	White	Rose.
Scotch	Yellow	Thistle.
Irish	Green	Shamrock.

"Para. XIII.—Militia Regiments will wear an M on the shoulder-strap, above the title of the Territorial Regiment.

"Para. XVI.—Changes of facings and alterations in badges will come into effect both for Line and Militia on the 1st July 1881."

Owing to these orders the Bedfordshire (Light Infantry) Militia changed its old designation, and became 3rd Battalion the Bedfordshire Regiment, the Hertfordshire Militia becoming the 4th Battalion.

The facings were changed from dark green to white.

A new cap-badge and collar-badge were approved of, both bearing "the Hart crossing the ford," the County badge of Hertfordshire; Bedfordshire never having had a County badge or motto.

From the 1st July of this year the system of calling up recruits to drill for fifty-six days, previous to the annual training, was abolished, and the recruits were allowed to come up for preliminary drill of sixty-three days upon enrolment. And I may venture to remark that a more ill-advised order, as far as the efficiency of the Militia was concerned, was never issued.

Assembled for twenty-seven days, May 9th. This year, for the first time, the recruits assembled and were dismissed prior to the assembly of the Battalion. Strength, 864.

This year the Officers' Mess was at Kempston Barracks.

1882.

In April of this year, Colonel Sir Richard Gilpin, Bart., died at Hockliffe Grange, near Leighton Buzzard, in the eighty-first year of his age. He was buried at Hockliffe Church, and the whole of the Officers who were able, as well as the permanent staff, attended the funeral.

I have alluded to Sir Richard Gilpin, and all I need say here is, that a very long time will pass away before his memory is forgotten by the Bedfordshire Militia.

Shortly after Sir Richard Gilpin's death Colonel Stuart

resigned the command of the Battalion, and was appointed Honorary Colonel.

Colonel Stuart joined the Regiment as a Subaltern previous to the re-organization in 1852, and accompanied it, during both the embodiments, to all its stations. There have been few officers in the Regiment who have had the honour and welfare of it more at heart than Colonel Stuart.

Major Sir John Burgoyne, Bart., was promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel, and to the command of the 3rd Battalion, and Captain and Hon. Major, G. B. Sharpe was promoted to be Major.

This year another great change took place. The attention of the authorities having been drawn to the large increase of absence and drunkenness in the Battalion during the last two or three trainings while in billets at Bedford, and also to the fact that no musketry instruction can be carried out at Bedford, owing to there being no rifle-range available, asked the opinion of the Commanding Officer as to training away.

A suggestion was at once sent in, to send the Battalion to Shorncliffe, where the 1st Battalion of the Territorial Regiment was then stationed. This proposition was agreed to by the Horse Guards, and it was arranged that accommodation should be made for the Battalion in huts. However, just before the Battalion assembled on the 15th May, these arrangements had to be altered, and the Battalion was ordered to train under canvas.

Before the Battalion left Bedford, it was announced that

by the will of the late Colonel Sir Richard Gilpin, Bart., a very valuable Gold Cup, which had been presented to him by the Magistrates and Gentlemen of the Leighton Buzzard Division of the County of Bedford, on his attaining his eightieth birthday, had been bequeathed to the Officers' Mess of the 3rd Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment.

It is to be hoped that this memorial of their beloved "old Colonel," as he was for so many years familiarly known in the Regiment, will long be preserved by the Officers.

On the 15th May the Battalion left Bedford (for the first time since 1861) by the Midland Railway, in two trains, for Shorncliffe, and by 3 o'clock the men were in their tents.

There can be no doubt that Militiamen much dislike being under canvas, and should never be ordered there unless absolutely necessary.

However, the men of the Battalion behaved as Bedfordshire Militiamen have always done, cheerfully made the best of matters, and by their good conduct, steadiness and smartness, earned the just praise of the whole Camp.

The Battalion was received by the Band of the 1st Battalion at Sandgate Station, and the men of the 1st Bedfordshire turned out and heartily cheered their 3rd Battalion upon the occasion of the two Battalions meeting for the first time.

I am unable to find words to express the gratitude of the Officers of the 3rd Battalion for the kindness, assistance,

and hospitality which were shown to them by Colonel Horne, Lieutenant-Colonel Westby, and the Officers of the 1st Battalion.

The Regiments at Shorncliffe were the 1st Battalion of the Bedfordshire, 1st Battalion Scottish Rifles (The Cameronians), 3rd and 4th Battalions of the Buffs (late East Kent Militia), and 3rd and 4th Royal West Kent Regiment, besides Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and the 15th (King's) Hussars.

Major-General Newdigate, C.B., commanded the Southern District, and Colonel J. Davis the troops at Shorncliffe.

The last time the Bedfordshire Militia had been at Shorncliffe was in July 1796.

On the Queen's Birthday the Battalion took part in the usual Birthday Parade of the garrison, and fired a *feu de joie*, and was much complimented on the steadiness and good marching of the men.

The Battalion was also inspected by Major-General Newdigate, C.B., who spoke in the highest praise of the appearance of the men on parade.

The Battalion was inspected officially by Colonel Bancroft—strength 737; and on the 9th of June it returned to Bedford, and the men were dismissed on the following day.

1883.

So satisfactory was the result of the training of the Battalion in the preceding year at Shorncliffe, that orders were issued for the Battalion to train there in 1883, and

arrangements were made to accommodate the Battalion in the B lines in huts.

The Battalion assembled on the 21st of May at Kempston Barracks, and early on the following morning proceeded to Shorncliffe.

The Regiments at the camp were the 3rd and 4th Battalions Royal West Kent, 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and the 7th Dragoon Guards.

On the 31st of May the Queen's Birthday was kept, the parade consisting of the 7th Dragoon Guards, Royal Artillery 1st Battalion, and 3rd Battalion the Bedfordshire Regiment.

The old Colours having been in use the regulated time of thirty years, new ones were issued by the War Office, of the new pattern, precisely the same as those carried by the Line, with the exception of the "badges."

On the 12th of June the Duchess of Bedford came down to Shorncliffe, and presented the Battalion with the new Colours.

The new Colours were handed to the Duchess by the two Majors, Lucas and Sharpe, who gave them to Lieutenants Pym and Greenway, both kneeling.

It is a curious fact which, if it has ever happened before, has at all events not happened often, that an Officer has served in a Regiment longer than the Colours; but it did happen upon this occasion, as Lieut.-Colonel and Major G. B. Sharpe was one of the Ensigns who received the old

Colours at Bedford in 1855, and as Major took part in the ceremony of receiving the new ones in 1883.

The day for the ceremony was beautifully fine, and a large crowd assembled to witness it, Major-General Newdigate, C.B., Colonel Davis, and nearly the whole of the garrison turning out to see it.

After the parade, the officers gave a breakfast in the mess-room, and a "dance" in the evening, which was largely attended.

The old Colours were given to the Duke of Bedford; but with the thoughtfulness that so truly characterises him, he wished them to be committed to another place.

The Officers of the Regiment, past and present, had ordered a stained-glass window to be put into St. Paul's Church, Bedford, in memory of Colonel Sir Richard Gilpin, Bart.; and it was the Duke of Bedford's wish that the old Colours should be placed by the sides of the memorial window; and a better place for them could not have been found.

On the 14th of June H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, the Commander-in-Chief, came down to Shorncliffe, and inspected the troops in the camp. His Royal Highness addressed the 3rd Battalion, and expressed his satisfaction at the appearance, steadiness under arms, and good marching of the men, and His Royal Highness added that the Battalion was quite fit to take its place by the side of any Battalion of the Line, and to go anywhere; and that the general report of the Battalion he had received, reflected

the greatest credit upon the Officers, non-commissioned Officers and Men.

On the 15th the Battalion returned to Bedford, and was dismissed on the following day. Strength 701.

I have now completed the records of the Battalion up to the present date. These pages do not pretend to be of any literary skill, or of historical value. I have taken a good deal of pains to trace out the records and services of the old Regiment, and I trust that my Brother Officers will continue to maintain and keep the records of the Battalion in the same careful manner as those who have served before us in the Regiment have done.

APPENDIX.

1762.

LIST OF OFFICERS, BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA, embodied
4th March 1760 :—

Colonel—The Marquis of Tavistock.

Major—Sir Philip Monoux, Bart.

Captain—John Marshe Dickinson.

„ The Earl of Ossory.

„ Richard Orlebar.

„ George Edwards.

„ Ambrose Reddall.

Captain-Lieut.—John Salusbury.

Lieutenant—Thomas Vaux.

„ John Franklin.

„ C. Venables Field.

„ Thomas Lee.

„ Joseph Franklin.

„ John Harvey.

„ George Boheme.

Ensign—Viscount Torrington.

„ Richard Filkes.

„ Peter Heywood.

„ Joseph Franklin.

„ Frederick Hill.

„ Charles Willaume.

Adjutant—John Freeman.

Quartermaster—Joseph Franklin.

Surgeon—Richard Filkes.

Agent—Mr. Calvert, Channel Row, Westminster.

NOTE.—In this List of Officers of the Militia and Yeomanry, &c., the dates of Officers' commissions are not given. This is the first List of Officers published.

1813.

LIST OF OFFICERS 1813, at the time of the Disembodiment.

Colonel—John Osborn.

Lieut.-Colonel—Richard Gilpin.

Major—James B. Horner.

Captain—William Thompson.

„ James B. Storrs.

„ Samuel Wallis.

„ Thomas Davies.

Lieutenant—Richard Hawkins.

„ Henry Leech.

„ William Sweeting.

„ James Bridge.

„ William Arden.

Ensigns—James B. Storrs.

„ Blackett C. Harrison.

„ — Brodrich.

Adjutant—William Hardgrove.

Surgeon—C. W. Hyne.

1852.

LIST OF OFFICERS at the Reorganisation.

Colonel—R. T. Gilpin.

Lieut.-Colonel—W. B. Higgins.

Major—F. C. Hastings Russell.

Captain—John H. Astell.

„ C. Hervey Smith.

„ R. H. Wilkinson.

„ Wm. Cooper Cooper.

„ William Stuart.

„ F. L. Pym.

Lieutenant—W. C. R. Judd.

„ W. K. Browne.

„ Chas. Lindsell.

„ Ed. Thornton.

„ Thos. Barnard.

„ C. L. Grimshawe.

Ensign—Geo. C. Ledger.

„ Norborne G. Smith.

„ Henry Meux Smith.

Adjutant—T. J. Smith (Captain)

Surgeon—W. Thurnall.

1861.

LIST OF OFFICERS at the last Disembodiment.

Colonel—R. T. Gilpin.

Lieut.-Colonel—W. Stuart.

Major—W. C. R. Judd.

Captain—Edward Thornton.

„ Geo. C. Ledger.

„ H. Meux Smith.

„ G. B. Sharpe.

„ F. F. R. M. Morgan.

„ R. S. Crawley.

Lieutenant—R. Chambers.

„ E. Spedding.

„ J. K. Winkworth.

„ G. R. Mascal.

„ A. H. Lucas.

„ T. J. Sunderland.

„ F. Luck.

Ensign—E. Toseland.

„ E. R. Ives.

„ G. H. Evans.

„ Marsden Sunderland

„ W. P. Winkworth.

Adjutant—Geo. Toseland.

Surgeon—M. J. McCormack.

Assistant-Surgeon—W. J. Rawlins.

Quartermaster—A. Merrie.

SUCCESSION of COLONELS of the BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA,
since it was raised in 1759.

Names.	Date of Commission.	Remarks.
The Marquis of Tavistock .	March 1759	
The Earl of Upper Ossory .	20 Jan. 1771	
Francis Moore	25 June 1795	
Sir John Osborn, Bart. . .	12 Jan. 1805	
Sir Richard Thomas Gilpin, Bart.	11 Sept. 1848	

In 1856 future appointment of Colonels of Militia was abolished, and the Honorary Colonels substituted.

HONORARY COLONELS.

Sir Richard T. Gilpin, Bart.	25 May 1879
William Stuart	1 May 1882

SUCCESSION of LIEUTENANT-COLONELS.

John Marshe Dickinson	1760
The Hon. James Stuart	1776
John Osborn	1779
Francis Moore	1793
Sir John Payne, Bart.	1795
Richard Gilpin	1803
William Astell	1841
R. T. Gilpin	1847
W. B. Higgins	1848
R. H. Wilkinson	1858
William Stuart	1860
Sir John M. Burgoyne, Bart. . .	1882

SUCCESSION of MAJORS.

Sir George Osborn, Bart.	.	.	.	1759
Sir Philip Monoux, Bart.	.	.	.	1760
Thomas Vaux	.	.	.	1778
William Becher	.	.	.	1779
Francis Moore	.	.	.	1781
Justinian Alston	.	.	.	date not known
John Payne	.	.	.	1793
Richard Gilpin	.	.	.	1795
Philip Monoux	.	.	.	1803
John Gibbard	.	.	.	1805
Thomas Rudd	.	.	.	1809
James B. Horner	.	.	.	1813
Richard T. Gilpin	.	.	.	1840
W. B. Higgins	.	.	.	1847
Francis C. Hastings Russell	.	.	.	1849
Robert H. Wilkinson	.	.	.	1854
William C. Cooper	.	.	.	1858
William Stuart	.	.	.	1858
William C. R. Judd	.	.	.	1860
Sir John M. Burgoyne, Bart.	.	.	.	1874
George Toseland	.	.	.	1875
A. H. Lucas	.	.	.	1879
G. B. Sharpe	.	.	.	1882
Thomas J. Sunderland	.	.	.	1883

SUCCESSION of ADJUTANTS.

Names.	Date of Appointment.	Remarks.
John Freeman .	Sept. 1759	
Thos. Frazer .	25 Mar. 1779	
*— Smith .	.	
*— J. Moore .	.	
Edwd. Trelawny .	25 Apl. 1793	
Wm. Hardgrove .	9 Oct. 1810	
J. Griffiths .	3 Oct. 1815	
Wm. Brown .	3 Nov. 1818	
H. T. Leech .	18 Sept. 1826	
T. Johnes Smith	6 Feb. 1846	Late Capt. 56th Foot
Geo. Toseland .	9 Mar. 1857	„ Ens. & Adj. 33rd do.
F. J. Josselyn .	7 Dec. 1875	„ Capt. 96th Foot
W. S. Whittuck	1 June 1880	„ Capt. 1/16th Regt.
A. G. Duberly	7 Nov. 1882	„ Major „ „

* No date of appointment of these officers can be found.

SUCCESSION of SURGEONS.

Richard Filkes .	.	.	1760
Thomas Stubbe .	.	.	26 Mar. 1778
George Borlase .	.	.	24 Mar. 1779
— Jackson .	.	.	.
George Wilkins .	.	.	25 Feb. 1793
Richard Turley .	.	.	2 June 1793
C. W. Hyne .	.	.	— 1810
F. J. Rix .	.	.	30 Dec. 1812
W. Thurnall .	.	.	11 Sept. 1852
M. J. McCormack	.	.	21 Aug. 1854

MEDICAL OFFICER.

R. H. Coombs 1 Mar. 1873 Surg.-Maj. Militia Medical
Department

SUCCESSION of QUARTERMASTER.

Joseph Franklin	.	.	.	.	1761
Thomas Ogilvie	.	.	.	.	1778
Andrew Lessley	.	.	.	.	1787
James Morris	.	.	.	.	1803
J. A. Dyer	.	.	.	.	1854
Adam Merrie	.	.	.	.	1855
Thomas Muir	.	.	.	.	1878
(Transferred to 4th Battalion).					
Archibald Hislop	.	.	.	.	1883

BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA.

RETURN of the NUMBER of MEN who Volunteered into various Regiments of the Line since the Formation of the Regiment to 1814.

Periods of Volunteering.	Station of Regiment.	Strength of Regiment.	Total of Men Volunteering.	Remarks.
June to July 1795 . . .	Warley Camp	—	Nil.	To Ports- mouth Di- vision, Royal Marines.
1 Apr. to 1 May 1799 . . .	Kells & Trim, Ireland . .	—	105	
1 Apr. to 1 May 1805 . . .	Totness and Newton Bushell . .	467	101	
1 Aug. to 1 Sept. 1807 . .	Portsmouth .	324	104	
1 Apr. to 1 May 1808 . .	Winchester .	442	21	
25 Mar. to 24 Apr. 1809 . .	Weedon Bar- racks . .	409	118	
25 Apr. to 24 May 1811 . .	Little Hamp- ton . . .	436	45	
25 Apr. to 24 May 1812 . .	Little Hamp- ton . . .	400	45	
25 Mar. to 24 Apr. 1813 . .	Yarmouth, Norfolk . .	338	45	
25 Nov. to 24 Dec. 1813 . .	Roscommon, Ireland . .	323	143	
25 Dec. 1813 to 24 Jan. 1814	Roscommon, Ireland . .	209	32	
25 Mar. to 24 Apr. 1814 . .	Roscommon, Ireland . .	177	20	
	Total		779	

THE BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA.

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BEDFORDSHIRE (LIGHT INFANTRY) MILITIA.

RETURN of the NUMBER of MEN who Volunteered into the Regular Army from the time of the Re-organization of the Regiment (1852) to the Disembodiment in 1856.

Years.	Stations of Regiment.	Strength.	No. of Men who Volunteered.	Remarks.
1852	Bedford.		Nil.	Commenced enrolling Men Sept. 2.
1853	Bedford.		15	
1854	Bedford and Berwick-on-Tweed .		245	Embodied Aug. 1.
1855	Bedford, Aldershot, and Ireland . .		30	
1856	Ireland and Bedford		69	Disembodied July 2, 1856.

BEDFORDSHIRE (LIGHT INFANTRY) MILITIA.

RETURN of the NUMBER of MEN who Volunteered into the Regular Army from July 1856 to the Disembodiment, 14th February 1861.

Years.	Stations.	Total Number.	Remarks.
1857	Bedford and Aldershot	30	Embodied 2nd Nov. 1857.
1858	Aldershot and Dover .	177	
1859	Dover, Aldershot, and Weymouth	66	
1860	Weymouth and Portsmouth	5	
1861	Portsmouth and Bedford	64	
			54 Men volunteered to the Royal Marines 21 Jan. 1861; Disembodied 14 Feb. 1861.

BEDFORDSHIRE (LIGHT INFANTRY) MILITIA.

RETURN of the NUMBER of MEN who have Volunteered
in each year to Regular Army.

Year.	Station.		Number.
1862	.	Bedford	13
1863	.	„	23
1864	.	„	12
1865	.	„	16
1866	.	„	21
1867	.	„	72
1868	.	„	15
1869	.	„	41
1870	.	„	51
1871	.	„	41
1872	.	„	28
1873	.	„	51
1874	.	„	31
1875	.	„	46
1876	.	„	49
1877	.	„	58
1878	.	„	31
1879	.	„	41
1880	.	„	69
1881	.	„	54
1882	.	„	35
1883	.	„	52

Since these pages were in the printer's hands Mr. Richard Orlebar, the representative of the oldest family in the County, has most kindly furnished me with some papers relating to a company of the Regiment commanded by Captain Orlebar in 1761.

Through these documents we are enabled to find much useful information as to the details of the Regiment more than a century ago ; and not the least curious thing is that the names of the men at the time we refer to, are in a large measure identical with those now serving in the Battalion.

I have struck an average of the age, length of service, and height of the men.

ORDERS.

Woburn Abby, 20th January 1763.

Pursuant to the directions of the Act of Parliament the Regiment to be re-formed and reduced to 6 Companies, the Battalion ones consisting of 3 Officers, 3 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, and 63 Private; the Grenadiers' Company 3 Officers, 3 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, 2 Drummers, and 67 Private. The Colonel is to take rank in the Regiment only as Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant. The Officers, Sergeants, and Drummers to be posted to the different Companies according to the Annexed List. The Colonel recommends to the Captains to attend as much as lies in their power, the Ballotting for the men of their Companies in order to object to taking such men as thro' age, want of size, &c., may be unfitt for Military Service ; he also strongly recommends their getting as much as possible. Inhabitants of Bedfordshire, as such as do not reside in the County will be very liable to be lost to the Regiment by being compelled to serve in other Corps. It lies much in the Officers' power to prevent the parishes in their Districts giving too much money for Substitutes, by assisting them in procuring proper persons for them. He hopes that

Officers during their stay in the Country will not think their Leisure hours misemployed by lending their assistance towards carrying into Effectual Execution a Law which has already been productive of such signal advantages to this Country, the continuance of which will secure those advantages and reflect such honour and credit to the Wisdom and publick Spirit of our measures. 1 Sergeant pr. Company and all the Drums and fifes to remain at Headquarters and to be answerable for the Arms, Accoutrements, &c., being properly taken care of. The Captains will order the other Sergeants of their Companies to reside where they think proper, provided it be in the County, and to follow such other orders as they shall give them. Sergeants and Drummers are permitted to weare collour'd cloaths if they chuse it, except on Sundays and Hollidays, but they are always to appeare with Hats Cocked, cockades, &c., and drest in a Soldier-like manner, and Never are they to weare their Hats Flapped or Skirts down. Such Drummers as will not in general work or learn some trade, shall be obliged to go to School to keep them from Idleness. The Adjutant (as residing on the spot) is answerable that those orders comply with, it is also his Duty to take care that all orders are communicated to all the Officers.

Corporal William Moll, of Captain Salusbury's company, is by the Colonel appointed Sergeant to Major Dickinson's company, and is to be obeyed accordingly.

Wooburn.

Lieut.-Col. Commandant.
 Captain—Lieut. Francklin.
 Ensign—Charles Willaume.

Sergeants { Mercer,
 { Lathum,
 { Sinfield.

Drummers { Clark,
 { Mawley.

Harrold.

Captain Orlebar.
 Lieut. Franklin.
 Ensign John Willaume.

Sergeants { Hinton,
 { Charles,
 { Williamson.

Drummers { Darby,
 { Routon.

Dunstable.

Captain—Major Dickinson.
 Lieut. Harvey.
 Ensign Miller.
 Sergeants { Frazer,
 Gunter,
 Moll.
 Drummers { Jones,
 Kirke.

Leighton.

Captain Reddall.
 Lieut. Boheme.
 Ensign Freeman.
 Sergeants { Firneval,
 Shepard,
 Bumstead.
 Drummers { Basset,
 Mawley.

Amptill.

Captain—Lord Ossory.
 Lieut. Field.
 Ensign Hill.
 Sergeants { Highton,
 Jones,
 Senior.
 Drummers { Woodly,
 Lancaster.

Bedford.

Captain Salusbury.
 Lieutenants { Lee,
 Heywood.
 Sergeants { Goodland,
 Gladwell,
 Barrett.
 Drummers { Hands,
 Wells.

Supernumerary Officers, Captain Vaux and Lieut. Filkes.

LETTER from LORD TAVISTOCK to CAPTAIN ORLEBAR.

SR,

London, May 26th, 1761.

I am favored with your letter by the return of my servant. Since I wrote to you I find the order is discretionary both as to the time and Route. I therefore propose marching on Monday next, according to the inclosed Route, which will not only be convenient to me, but the best and nearest way of the Distances proper. I hope to be with you on Friday to settle the whole, and join on Sunday night and march with you. As we have so much time, I hope it will be possible to get the Serjts. and Drums cloaths fitted, and if there is, beg you will deliver them out. The Serjts. and Men's Hatts may be given out with strict orders that they take the utmost care of them, keeping them always tied up tight, and on no account altering the cock, &c. They must also be told never to pull them off, but touch them with their left hand in the same manner as I ordered the Grenadiers do; and I beg you wd. see that they are taught to do it gracefully and uniformly. In case news shd. come while I am absent of the whole Island of Belleisle being taken, I shd. think it will be proper to fire upon the occasion.

I understand the Camps will begin forming between the 15th and 20th of June. Richmond's I hear is to be at Sand Heath with us instead of Charles Manners's, but this I am not certain of. I do most entirely approve of what you have already done, and beg you wd. go on in settling everything for the March, and am, Sr.

Your most obedt.

Servant,

F. T.

First Division.

Grenadiers.

Colonels.

1st Battalion Company.

				Miles.
Monday,	June 1st	.	Hitchin	16
Tuesday,	„ 2nd	.	Hatfield	14
Wednesday,	„ 3rd	.	Highgate	16
Thursday,	„ 4th	.	Halt.	
Friday,	„ 5th	.	Kingston	15
Saturday,	„ 6th	.	Guilford	18
				—
				79

Second Division.

Majors.

3 Battalion Companies.

				Miles.
Tuesday,	June 2nd	.	Hitchin	16
Wednesday,	„ 3rd	.	Hatfield	14
Thursday,	„ 4th	.	Halt.	
Friday,	„ 5th	.	Highgate	16
Saturday,	„ 6th	.	Kingston	15
Sunday,	„ 7th	.	Halt.	
Monday,	„ 8th	.	Guilford	18
				—
				79

LETTER from MARQUIS of TAVISTOCK to CAPTAIN
ORLEBAR.Woburn,
Jan. 20th, 1763.

DEAR SR,

As I flattered myself with the hopes of meeting you before I left England, I did not answer the very obliging letter you was so good as to write me soon after the disembodiment of the Regt. As I propose leaving London next Sunday, I now take this opportunity of doing it, and at the same time assuring you how sensible I am of your merit and services as an officer. As I imagine you are likely to be in the County during the time of raising the new men, I can't help asking your assistance in carrying it into execution while I am out of England. I am convinced, with a little pains, a very good body of men may be held in readiness to serve their country upon any emergency, and perhaps put in some tolerable order. I am sorry to be obliged to give your Company so large a district, but the encreasing the Companies and new-modelling the Regt. has given so much trouble, nor could I possibly manage it better.

I beg my Compts. to your father and sisters, and am, Sr,

Your obedt.

Humble Servt.,

F. TAVISTOCK.

DOCUMENTS relating to the BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA in
the possession of R. ORLEBAR, of Hinwick House.

A LIST of CAPT. ORLEBAR'S COMPANY'S QUARTERS,
Northampton, 1st July 1762.

No. of Men of each House.	Men's Names.	Signs (of the Inns).	Streets.	Days appointed for cooking.
1 2 3 4	Sergeant Hinton B Charles B Corpl. Robinson B Summerford B	Hynd	Upper End of ye Draperey.	Saturdays Sundays Mondays Tuesdays Thursdays
&c	About 50 men's names.	&c.	&c.	&c.

N.B.—Those men mark with a B at the end of their names board with their
landlords.

JOSEPH HINTON, Serjeant.

RICHD. ORLEBAR, Captain.

HARROLD COMPANY.

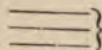
No. of Men.	Parishes and Hamlets.	Militia Men enrolled to serve for the sevl. Parishes.
2	Bletsoe Carlton	John Hart James Rogers Wm. Makeham
&c	&c.	&c.

In all 66 men. Date of document apparently 1763.

SIZE ROLL of MAJOR RICHD. ORLEBAR'S COMPANY,
Bedford, 29th May 1767.

Front.	Age.	Size.		Service.	Center.	Age.	Size.		Service.	Rear.	Age.	Size.		Service.
		Feet.	Inches.				Feet.	Inches.				Feet.	Inches.	
Benjn. Archer	27	5	9	2	Wm. Smith, Corpl.	30	5	5½	8	Samll. Hart	21	5	7	2
&c.					&c.					&c.				

In all 60 names.

 Not joined.
 3 wanting to compt.

JOSH. HINTON, Secretary.

COMPANIES proposed to compose the BEDFORDSHIRE
REGT. OF MILITIA.

Woburn Company	-	-	-	66
Dunstable	„	-	-	66
Amphill	„	-	-	66
Leighton	„	-	-	66
Harrold	„	-	-	66
Bedford	„	-	-	70

400 men.

PARISHES proposed to compose the HARROLD COMPANY.

Bletsoe - - -	2	Brought over -	31
Carlton - - -	3	Shelton - - -	1
Chidlington - -	-	Sharnbrook - -	2
Dean - - -	3	Souldrop - - -	1
Farndish - - -	-	Stevington - -	2
Felmersham - -	1	Thurleigh - - -	2
Harrold - - -	4	Tillbrooke - - -	2
Keysoe - - -	3	Wimington - - -	1
Knotting - - -	-	Yielding - - -	1
Milton Ernest -	2	Pertenhall - - -	1
Melchbourne - -	1	Colmworth - - -	2
Odell - - -	2	Little Stoughton -	1
Pavingham - - -	3	Bolnhurst - - -	1
Poddington - -	2	Roxton - - -	4
Radwell - - -	1	Renhold - - -	2
Risley - - -	4	Eaton Socon - - -	11
Carried over - -	31	Total - - -	66

Ravensden 1, Carlton 1, Harrold, Turvey, Odell, Felmersham, Sharnbrook, Melchbourne, Oakley, Keysoe, Risley, Shelton, Tillbrook, Goldinton, Roxton, Colmworth, Eaton Socon.

COMPANIES in the BEDFORDSHIRE BATTALION, 1767.

Bedford Company.	Amphill Company.	Woburn Company.
Capt. Jno. Salusbury. Lieut. Peter Haywood. Lieut. Jno. Freeman. Serjts. { Jas. Goodland. { Thos. Barratt. { Jno. Williams. { John Browning. Corpls. { Henry Peacock. { Thos. Freeman. Drumrs. { Geo. Hands. { Thos. Butler.	Capt. Thos. Vaux. Lieut. Frederick Hill. Ensn. Ingram Ball. Serjts. { Wm. Jones. { Richd. Daniel. { Jno. Millington. { Jas. Green. Corpls. { Jno. Keep. { Robt. Reynold. Drumrs. { Geo. Lancaster. { Jas. Woodley.	Capt. Thos. Lee. Lieut. Jno. Miller. Ensn..... Serjts. { Jas. Mercer, S.M. { Jno. Latham. { Jno. Sinfield. { Pampheila Pack. Corpls. { Jno. Barker. { Wm. Hull. Drumrs. { Michl. Holmes, { D.M. { Jas. Morley.

THOS. FURNIVALL, Serjt.

Size-Roll of Major Richard Orlebar's Company, Bedford, 29th May 1767.

Front.	Age.	Size.		Center.	Age.	Size.		Rear.	Age.	Size.		Service.
		Feet.	Inches.			Feet.	Inches.			Feet.	Inches.	
Benj. Archer .	21	9	9	Wm. Smith, Crpl.	30	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Samuel Hart .	21	5	7	8
Robert Rayment .	27	5	9	Henry Richardson .	19	5	5	Thomas Wright .	37	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	8
William Patrick .	37	5	9	Jeremh. Newton .	27	5	5	John Newman .	42	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
Wm. Partridge, C.	23	5	9	James Hatten .	22	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Horner .	24	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
Richd. Woodrofe .	30	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Jeremh. Goodchild .	29	5	5	Richard Nobles .	29	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
Robert Davis .	26	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Simon Fowler .	22	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	James Sergeant .	35	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
James Calwell .	24	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Wilmore .	20	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Henry Salusbury .	25	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
Thos. Whitfield .	21	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Thomas Lovell .	25	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Parker .	24	5	6	6
Stephen Morris .	39	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	James Wright .	36	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Larun .	18	5	6	2
Edward Read .	23	5	7	Mark Nobles .	25	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Thomas Gibbs .	24	5	6	2
Richard Wright .	27	5	7	John Asplin .	26	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Smith, Crpl.	29	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8
Daniell Healy .	7	7	3	Samuel Toby .	17	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	James Sumnerfield .	20	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3
William Watson .	22	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Joseph Baker .	44	5	4	Francis Pratt .	27	5	6	3
Robert Potter .	29	5	8	Thomas Merril .	21	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Scarborough .	20	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3
John Wittermore .	26	5	8	James Marriot .	24	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	William Tilley .	34	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
Joseph Merchant .	30	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	William Smith .	21	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Savell .	19	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
Thomas Carter .	23	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Tap .	22	5	5	Thomas Orlebar .	19	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
Joseph Farrin .	34	5	9	John Summerlin .	27	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	William Knight .	28	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
Henry Story .	23	5	9	Saml. Dickinson .	22	5	5	Thos. Partridge .	19	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
James Richford .	24	5	9	William Gent .	28	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Thos. Peacock .	20	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2

Jos. Plowman } Not Joined.
Thos Lovell }

3 wanting to Compt.

JOSH. HINTON, Sergeant.

It will be seen that the details of this Company, which was a "Battalion Company" (not Grenadier or Light Infantry), therefore the smallest men, was:—

Average height, * 5 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; average age, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ years; average service, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

* The two drummers and two fifiers are included in this measurement.

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